



## August 2026 News FOR OUR COMMUNITY



*Yakima*  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
DISTRITO ESCOLAR

### Greene Light

#### A Message from Yakima's Superintendent, Dr. Trevor Greene



*When a community invests in its schools,  
it expresses confidence in its future.*

This spring, the Yakima community did exactly that by approving Yakima School District's \$200 million bond measure. On behalf of our Board of Directors, our staff, and nearly 15,000 students, thank you for your trust and partnership. Your support reflects a shared belief that every student deserves the opportunity to learn in schools that are safe, welcoming, and designed for the future.

Over the next several years, our community will see the results of this investment take shape across Yakima. Beyond improving our schools, this investment will help preserve resources that would otherwise be consumed by maintaining aging facilities. That means more of the funding entrusted to Yakima School District can remain focused where it belongs—supporting students, strengthening instruction, and creating opportunities for every child to succeed.

Every day, nearly 15,000 students walk through our doors with unique talents, aspirations, and needs. Working alongside our families and community partners, we are committed to helping every student discover their strengths, achieve their goals, and graduate prepared for whatever path they choose.

As we welcome our students in grades 1 - 12 back on Thursday, August 27, and our preschool and kindergarten students back on Wednesday, September 2, I look forward to another year of learning, growth, and opportunity. As you prepare for the first day of school, please note that our elementary, middle and high schools will have updated start and dismissal times this year. A summary of those changes is included in this newsletter to help families plan ahead. Your investment in our schools is, ultimately, an investment in the future of our community.

**Dr. Trevor Greene**

Superintendent, Yakima School District

### Leadership Updates

#### for the 2026–2027 School Year

Strong schools are built on strong leadership.

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting students, staff, and families, Yakima School District has made several administrative leadership assignments for the 2026–2027 school year. Each transition reflects the unique strengths and experience of these leaders and our commitment to placing talented educators where they can have the greatest impact. We are grateful for their professionalism, flexibility, and willingness to serve wherever they are needed most.

- **Joyce Mininger** will serve as Principal of Roosevelt Elementary School, bringing extensive experience in school administration and instructional leadership.
- **Faith Lindley** will serve as Assistant Principal at Lewis and Clark Middle School, transferring from Franklin Middle School.
- **Suhail Nunez** will serve as Assistant Principal at Franklin Middle School, transferring from Washington Middle School.
- **Arlando Lara** will serve as Assistant Principal at Washington Middle School, transferring from Stanton Academy.
- **Hector Camacho** will serve as Assistant Principal supporting Stanton Academy and Yakima Online/K-8 Academy, transferring from Davis High School.
- **Holli Stephens** will serve as Assistant Principal at Davis High School, bringing 15 years of K-12 teaching experience.

Since assuming their new assignments on July 1, 2026, these leaders have spent the summer preparing for the year ahead—working alongside staff, planning for student success, and ensuring a strong start to the school year. They look forward to welcoming and serving students, families, and the community as they begin this exciting new chapter in their schools.



#### BACK TO SCHOOL DATES:

Grades 1 - 12: August 27 | Pre-K & Kindergarten: September 2 | Visit: [ysd7.org/backtoschool](https://ysd7.org/backtoschool)



## State Track Meet Showcases Yakima

The Yakima School District (YSD) hosted the Small Schools State Track and Field Meet in May 2026 at Zaepfel Stadium, welcoming 1B, 2B, and 1A schools from across Washington state. The event brought together 153 schools and 1,756 student-athletes competing in a wide range of track and field events.

The multi-day championship brought athletes, coaches, and families together for one of the largest small-school competitions in the state. Perfect weather contributed to the setting of multiple state records during the three-day competition.



“Hosting the small schools state track meet is an incredibly meaningful milestone for YSD,” said YSD Director of Athletics Sara Cordova (pictured

bottom left). “It gives us a perfect opportunity to welcome families from all across the state and share our beautiful and welcoming community. More than anything, an event like this shines a light on our incredible staff and region.”

Yakima School District was honored to host the event, showcase our community to visitors from across Washington, and support student-athletes from across the state.



## Yakima School District Adopts New Bell Schedule

for 2026-27 School Year



Beginning August 27, 2026, the Yakima School District will implement a new bell schedule designed to support student learning and create a more efficient transportation system.

The updated schedule includes new start and end times for schools and establishes Monday as the district’s only regular early release day. The change will create a more predictable weekly schedule for families and make better use of available buses and drivers – improving bus transportation efficiency and reliability.

Students will be released 90 minutes early each Monday, allowing dedicated time for teachers to collaborate, engage in professional learning, and improve instructional planning. It will also reduce operational costs, safeguard student learning, and support student resources.

Families are encouraged to review their school’s updated bell schedule and plan accordingly for the upcoming school year.

Please visit our website for more information on bell schedules: [ysd7.org/bell-schedules](https://ysd7.org/bell-schedules).

| School Level  | Old Schedule      | New Schedule      |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Elementary 1* | 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM | 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM |
| Elementary 2* | 8:45 AM - 3:15 PM | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM |
| Middle        | 8:00 AM - 2:30 PM | 7:45 AM - 2:15 PM |
| High          | 8:00 AM - 2:35 PM | 8:15 AM - 2:45 PM |

\*See elementary school groups on our website. Students are dismissed 90 minutes early each Monday.



# Yakima School District's April 2026 Bond

Yakima School District's \$200 million bond measure, approved in April 2026, marks the district's first bond measure to receive voter approval since 2009.

The approved Capital Construction Bond allows for the replacement of Garfield and Hoover elementary schools, both of which are more than 60 years old. In addition, the bond supports important improvements across the District, including HVAC system upgrades, roof repairs and maintenance, accessible playgrounds at our elementary schools, a Davis High School softball/fastpitch complex, new track surfaces at the middle schools and two comprehensive high schools, and new turf at Zaepfel Stadium.

Since 2006, the District has brought four bond measures before voters. Bond proposals in 2006 and 2007 failed, while voters approved a bond measure in 2009 that funded improvements at Davis, Eisenhower, and Stanton Academy. The 2026 measure was the district's first bond proposal in nearly 20 years and reflects community support for investments in school facilities across the District.

In Washington state, passing a bond requires a 60% supermajority of "yes" votes and a validation threshold: voter turnout must be at least 40% of the total votes cast in the district during the previous general election. The April bond passed at 60.99%.



## What's Next?

The District selected Design West Architects and Turner & Townsend Heery as its project management team, both of which bring extensive experience managing large school construction projects. Initial planning meetings have begun, and the District expects to have its building design and project management teams fully in place by fall 2026. The bond sale process is scheduled to begin in September 2026, making funds available for project work.

Several facility improvement projects are already underway this summer, including improvements to the Lewis and Clark Middle School track and upgrades to the school's courtyard area. Accessible elementary playground improvements will begin this upcoming 2026-27 school year.

Current planning targets call for the new Hoover Elementary School to open in fall 2028, followed by a new Garfield Elementary School in fall 2029. As with all major construction projects, timelines and project schedules may be adjusted as planning and construction progress.



The District will continue providing regular updates through Board meetings and District communications. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our bond webpage: [ysd7.org/bond](https://ysd7.org/bond).

# Ridgeview Elementary Brings Treaty Day Learning to Life

Students at Ridgeview Elementary School had the opportunity to experience history, culture, and tradition in a meaningful way this June as part of the school's Treaty Day learning activities.

During an all-school assembly on June 9, Ridgeview Assistant Principal Mr. John and his nephew shared traditional tribal dancing with students, providing a powerful connection between classroom learning and lived cultural experience. The presentation gave students a firsthand look at traditions that have been passed down through generations and continue to be practiced today.

Throughout the school year, students learn about Native American history, cultures, and the significance of Treaty Day. By bringing cultural traditions directly into the school setting, Ridgeview helped students deepen their understanding in a way that textbooks alone cannot provide.

Treaty Day commemorates the Treaty of 1855, signed between the United States government and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The treaty remains significant today and serves as an important reminder of the history, sovereignty, and enduring presence of the Yakama people throughout the Yakima Valley.

For students growing up in the Yakima Valley, understanding the history and traditions of the Yakama Nation helps them better understand the community they call home.

*"Some of the most meaningful learning happens when students hear directly from the people who have shaped our community," said Dr. Trevor Greene, Superintendent of Yakima School District. "Experiences like this help students develop a deeper appreciation for the history, cultures, and traditions that continue to enrich the Yakima Valley."*

By connecting classroom learning with lived experience, Ridgeview students gained a deeper understanding of the history, culture, and traditions that continue to shape the Yakima Valley.





# Keeping More Dollars in the Classroom

## A Message from Jake Kuper

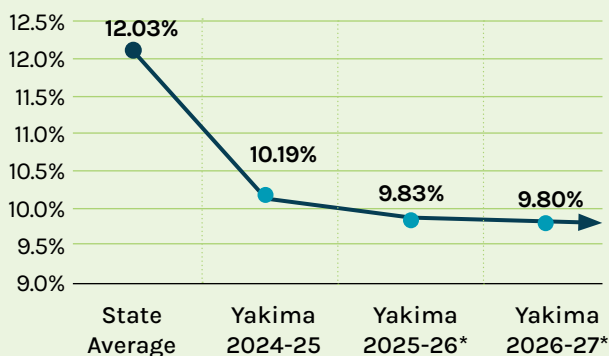


### Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Yakima School District continues to keep administrative costs low so that more funding can be directed to students, classrooms and schools.

During the 2024-25 school year, the district spent 10.19% of its total budget on district and school administration, compared with the state average of 12.03%. That means Yakima spends a smaller share of its budget on administration than most school districts across Washington.

Percent of Budget Allocated for Administration:



Actual and \*projected administration costs shown as percentage of total expenditures.



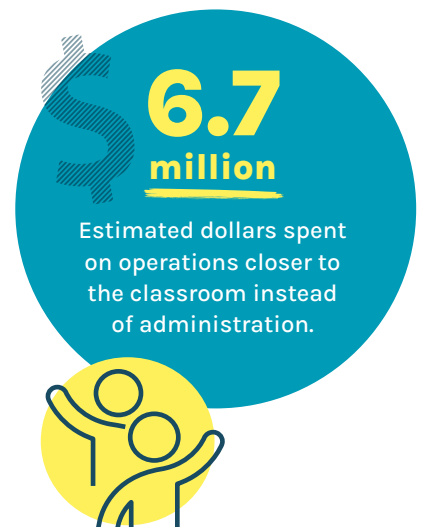
Yakima ranked 280th (**bottom 5%**) out of 295 school districts for administrative spending

In fact, Yakima ranked 280th out of 295 school districts for administrative spending as a percentage of total expenditures. In other words, only about 5% of Washington districts spend a smaller share on administration, making Yakima one of the state's leanest districts when it comes to administrative costs.

The district plans to continue this lean approach. Budget projections for 2025-26 and 2026-27 show administrative spending remaining below 10% of the district's total budget.

### What does that mean for students?

If Yakima spent the state average on administration during the 2026-27 school year, the district would spend about \$6.7 million more on administrative costs. Instead, those dollars remain available to support teaching, student programs, school operations and other services that directly benefit students and staff.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE BUDGET INFORMATION:  
[ysd7.org/about/finances](https://ysd7.org/about/finances)



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# Helping Every Student Succeed: How We Measure Progress

## A Message from Dr. Maria Lucero

### Assistant Superintendent of Teaching & Learning



One of the questions families and community members ask most often is, “How do we know whether our students are learning?” While annual state assessments provide valuable information, they are only one measure of student success. Throughout the school year, Yakima School District teachers regularly check how students are learning through classroom work, reading and math screenings, and district assessments. This helps teachers identify students who need additional support, celebrate growth, and make sure every student continues moving forward.

The results are encouraging.

Between fall 2025 and spring 2026, students made meaningful gains in both literacy and mathematics. More students reached grade level in reading, more students met math benchmarks, and performance on the state assessment also improved. English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities made meaningful academic gains as well, showing that additional support is helping more students succeed.

These gains reflect the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers and staff, and the partnership we share with families.

That’s encouraging—but our work isn’t finished.

Some students continue to need additional support to reach grade level, and we remain committed to closing achievement gaps so every learner has the opportunity to succeed.

As we begin a new school year, we will continue building on what is working. Teachers will continue collaborating, receiving instructional coaching, and using student learning data to help every child succeed. Every assessment tells us more than how students performed—it helps us understand how to better support each student as they continue to learn, grow, and reach their full potential.

A closer look at the numbers  
behind this progress:



### Literacy Highlights

- › **60.3%** of secondary students (3,350) showed typical or better reading growth 
- › **10-30** percentage point gains in elementary benchmark achievement Fall to Spring
- › **32.4%** of secondary students (1,802) achieved high growth in reading
- › **60-90%** of dual language students (K-4) achieved benchmark rates by Spring
- › **50-64%** of students in grades 2-5 reading at/above grade-level benchmarks



### Mathematics Highlights

- › **57.1%** of students (4,472) demonstrated at or above typical math growth
- › **103** additional students reached math proficiency on state assessment
- › **293** fewer students scored at lowest performance level (Level 1)
- › English Language Learners increased math proficiency from **8.71% to 10.42%**
- › Students with Disabilities increased math proficiency from **5.59% to 7.76%** 



VIEW MORE DATA IN OUR STATE REPORT CARD:  
[reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us](https://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us)



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