



2025 - 2026

Annual Report



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

As we prepare for the coming school year, I want to reflect on key highlights from 2025-26. In June, we celebrated the graduation of 188 seniors and are excited to see the bright futures ahead of them.

Among this year's graduates were a U.S. Presidential Scholars Program semifinalist and two additional nominees, earning recognition in one of the nation's most prestigious programs for graduating seniors. Their accomplishments reflect the opportunities and support provided by our dedicated staff.

Our staff also received notable recognition. Danika Welty, Lakewood High School agriculture science teacher, was named Washington State Early Career Agriculture Teacher of the Year. Kennedy Doty, Lakewood Middle School ASB advisor and leadership teacher, was honored as the 2025 AWSL Northwest Region Middle-Level Advisor of the Year. State Auditor Pat McCarthy also presented the Lakewood School District Business Office with the prestigious SASA Award for excellence in financial stewardship and collaboration.

Throughout the summer, our maintenance team has completed projects that preserve our facilities and enhance safety, including painting, repairs, ADA accessibility upgrades, and repaving the service road behind the stadium. Two major capital improvement projects are also underway: the LES boiler replacement, funded through a state urgent repair grant and capital levy funding, and the LMS cafeteria reconfiguration, a capital levy project recommended by the Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee in 2023. Read more about levy-funded improvements on page 7.

Thank you for your continued support of Lakewood schools.



Dr. Erin Murphy,
Superintendent

All my best,

Erin

HIGHLIGHTS

Service, Leadership and a
Community of Caring

Collaborative Family and
Community Engagement

Equitable Access to
Powerful Learning

Financial Stewardship

Educational Programs
& Operations Levy
(2025-2028)

Capital Improvements &
Safety Levy
(2025-2028)



Service, Leadership and a Community of Caring

3 schools receive Culture Kickoff Award for commitment to student voice



Lakewood School District celebrated a significant achievement this year as three schools, Lakewood Elementary, Lakewood Middle School, and Lakewood High School, earned the Association of Washington School Principals' Culture Kickoff Award.

The award recognizes schools that intentionally build positive,

welcoming school cultures from the start of the year.

Lakewood High School earned the honor for the second consecutive year, one of only eight schools statewide to receive recognition two years in a row. Lakewood Elementary and Lakewood Middle School joined a total of 30 award-winning schools in the state.

August 20: Back-to-School Resource and Wellness Fair

Once again, we are partnering with LINC Northwest and the Lakewood Community Coalition on Thursday, August 20 from 4-7 p.m. as we kick off the new school year together!



Children can receive free backpacks and haircuts, and there will be food, games and resources for families. Parking will be next door at Lakewood High School. Community partners will be available to share resources.



KC Knudsen, MTSS Coordinator from Northwest Educational Service District 189, guided staff through a deeper understanding of MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support), a framework designed to ensure all students receive the level of support they need to be successful.

Learning doesn't stop on Fridays

What happens when students go home early on Fridays? While our classrooms may get quieter, teachers and staff continue growing their skills to support every student.

During one professional development workshop, teachers learned how to use data, targeted strategies, and teamwork to meet students where they are and help them grow academically, socially and emotionally. When teachers learn, students benefit.

Good Vibes Crew partners with senior community

For the third year in a row, Lakewood's FCCLA "Good Vibes Crew" have been building friendships at the Warm Beach Senior Living Center. Their visits have become an anticipated tradition.

FCCLA—Family, Career and Community Leaders of America—helps students apply classroom learning to real-world settings and make a positive community impact.

FCCLA students helped seniors make Valentine's decorations at Warm Beach Senior Living Center.



Collaborative Family and Community Engagement

You're Invited! Homecoming Open House on Sept. 18

Join us for an Open House at Lakewood High School on Friday, September 18, 2026, from 5 to 6:30 p.m., before the Homecoming football game against Bellingham High School at 7 p.m.

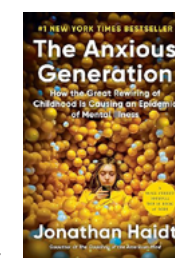
Community members and families are invited to explore our campus, enjoy refreshments, and connect with students, staff and alumni. Student-led tours will showcase the many opportunities available at Lakewood High School.

We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating Homecoming with our entire community!

Lakewood Community Read

Partner: Lakewood/Smokey Point Library

During in-person and online discussion groups, the community was invited to discuss the implications of smart phones in the lives of today's youth based on the book, "The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt. The library gave priority access to participants to check out copies of the book.



FUN FACTS

Lakewood High School opened in 2017 and features modern learning and activity spaces, including science laboratory classrooms, a metal shop/construction classroom, a culinary classroom, a performing arts space, and an auxiliary gymnasium that allows multiple sports teams to practice at the same time.



Become a Lakewood Key Communicator

We're looking for community members who want to help strengthen the connection between Lakewood schools and our community. Key Communicators attend occasional meetings with the superintendent to learn about important initiatives, share their perspectives, and provide valuable feedback to help inform district decisions. If you're interested in staying informed and having a voice, email Renee Harnden-Moore rharnden@lwsd.wednet.edu.



Teacher Alisha Krogmann helps an ECE fifth grader with an experiment.

All aboard! Community Transit teaches students to ride

Partner: Community Transit

While Community Transit offers many opportunities to catch a ride, trying transit for the first time can feel nerve wracking for both students and adults. To build confidence, Community Transit brought a bus to Lakewood High School to help middle and high school students in our comprehensive skills programs learn how to ride safely.

Here are a few helpful transit tips they shared: Sitting near the driver can help if you're feeling nervous. If you're unsure about your route, tell the driver when you board and they can help make sure you get off at the right stop.

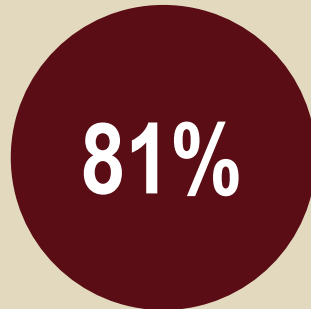
Riding your bike to the bus stop can be a great way to travel. Just remember to exit through the front door and let the driver know you have a bike.



Students learned to pull the cord on the bus before a stop so the driver has time to pull over. If you're unsure about your route, tell the driver when you board so they can help you get to the right place.



Inspiring Growth. Empowering Futures.



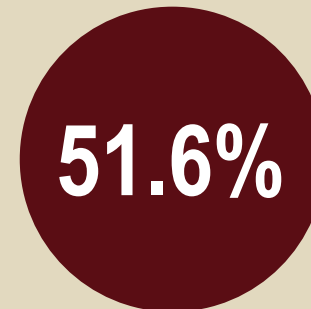
Four-year Graduation Rate
(2025-26 Preliminary)



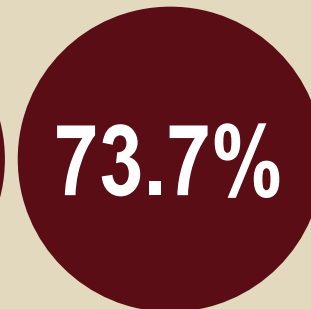
District Enrollment
(Oct. 1, 2025 FTE)



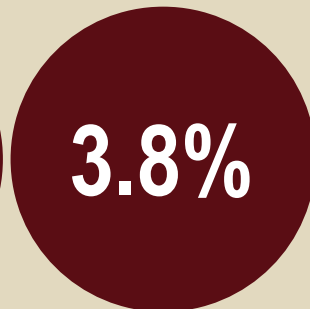
Multilingual Learners
(2025-26)



Low-income students
(2025-26)



Teachers with advanced degrees
(2025-26)



Homeless Students
(2025-26)

In partnership with families and our community, Lakewood School District creates inclusive, caring environments where every student belongs and is challenged to think critically and build social emotional skills and achieve academic excellence in preparation for life and aspirations beyond graduation.

— Lakewood mission statement



Providing real-world learning experiences is a priority in Lakewood. This year, American Sign Language 3 students signed the Pledge of Allegiance during board meetings, demonstrating their skills interpreting in a live setting.

Student editorials published in Herald

If you picked up an issue of the Everett Herald on May 30, you may have spotted something special: persuasive essays written by students from Lakewood Middle School.



Lakewood Middle School eighth-grade students and their teacher, John Johansen.

Students in John Johansen's English Language Arts classes wrote the articles with coaching help from guest mentor and former Herald opinion editor Jon Bauer. After finding a topic, students learn to strengthen their writing with evidence and build compelling arguments.

Read student essays



BUILDING FUTURE-READY SKILLS IN CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Above: Applied STEM, an eighth-grade elective, combines engineering, coding, and problem-solving. Projects include mini traffic lights, a moving excavator, and even a miniature crane.



Right: The LHS Vet Science team qualified for state with a strong showing at districts.

CTE ADVISORY GROUP

The CTE Advisory Group helps ensure our Career and Technical Education programs stay connected to industry needs and workforce trends. We welcome professionals to share their expertise. Volunteering is a meaningful way to help support student success. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/lwsdcteadvisory>

Hands-on learning inspires growth and exploration



CCE third graders craft geometry monsters with trapezoids, isosceles triangles, and other shapes.



LES Writing Celebrations: The best part of being an author? When someone enjoys reading your work!

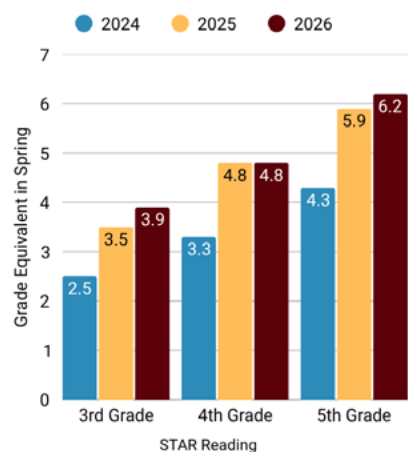
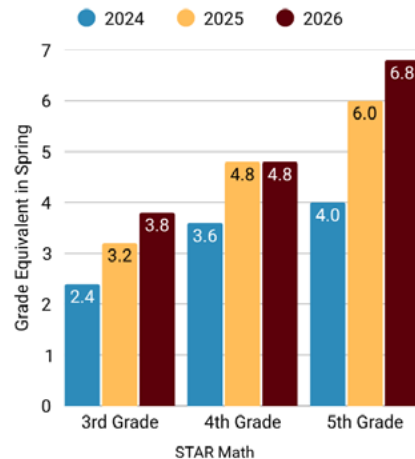


Fifth graders explore the world of electrical engineering at ECE by testing how electricity flows through a circuit.

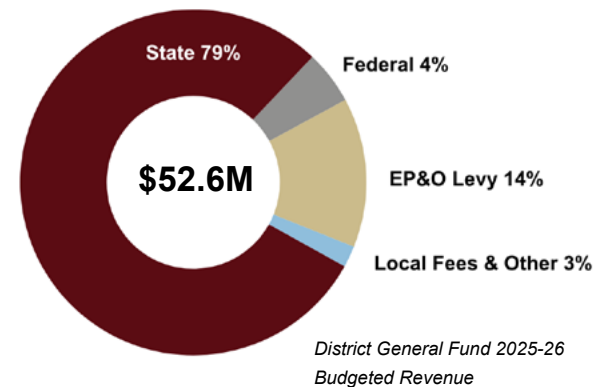
Building a strong foundation for future success

Students continued to show strong growth this year in math and reading, as measured by their STAR assessment scores. By spring, our fifth graders were performing at a sixth-grade level, demonstrating the impact of their hard work and the support they receive at school.

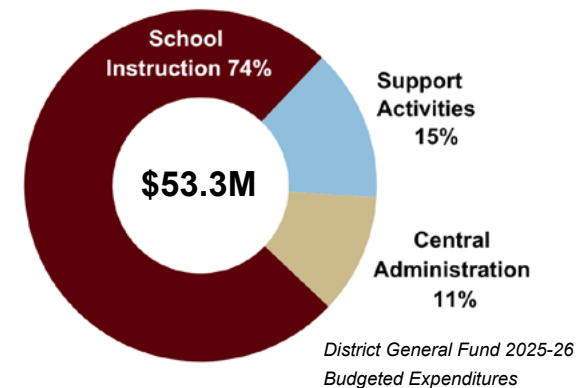
The elementary years are a critical time for building the academic foundation students need for success in later grades. Through multi-tiered systems of support, teachers ensure every student receives the instruction, intervention, and enrichment needed to master essential skills.



Where does the money come from?



How is the money spent?



STATE AUDITOR'S STEWARDSHIP AWARD

State Auditor Pat McCarthy presented the Lakewood School District Business Office with the State Auditor's Stewardship Award (SASA) during a special meeting of the Lakewood Board of Directors on May 4. The award recognizes outstanding accomplishment in accountability, transparency and good stewardship of public resources.

In presenting the award, McCarthy praised the district's strong internal control environment, noting that it reflects Lakewood's commitment to accurate financial reporting, continuous improvement, and a spirit of collaboration.

Superintendent Dr. Erin Murphy emphasized the broader impact of the Business Office's work. "Their collaborative approach helps build confidence and ensures we are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us."

Citizen's Guide to the Budget

Lakewood School District appreciates the tremendous support we receive from our community taxpayers and partners. As a district, we strive to operate efficiently and to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

More than three-quarters of the General Fund budget will be spent directly on **school instruction**. This includes teachers, counselors, librarians, educational assistants, teaching supplies, materials, textbooks, instructional staff development, and extracurricular activities, all of which enrich the overall quality of classroom instruction.

Support activities, such as custodial, transportation, food services, maintenance, utilities, and insurance, amount to 14%.

Central administration makes up the remaining 11% of the budget. These expenses include development, coordination and evaluation of instructional programs by the superintendent and central office. Also included are business and human resources, supervision for nutrition services, maintenance and transportation, communications and legal costs.



The 2025-26 LWSD Citizen's Guide to the Budget is designed to build understanding of how Washington schools are funded and how we in Lakewood School District allocate these revenues. Read the latest Lakewood Citizen's Guide to the Budget on our website. The 2026-27 guide will be available later this fall after actuals for 2025-26 are submitted to the state.

District Budget Advisory Committee studies enrollment and facilities plans

Lakewood School District is grateful for the continued support of our community. Strong fiscal stewardship and transparency remain essential to maintaining that trust. To support this commitment, Lakewood launched a District Budget Advisory Committee (DBAC) in February 2026, with representatives from staff, students, school board members, and the community.

The committee will advise the Board of Directors and district staff on short- and long-term financial planning.



During its first three meetings, the District Budget Advisory Committee examined district enrollment, budgets, and Lakewood's Long Range Facilities Master Plan. The committee will continue to meet during the 2026-27 school year.



Educational Programs and Operations Levy (2025-2028)



Thank you, Lakewood voters!

In 2024, our community approved both the Replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy and the Capital Improvements & Safety Levy. These levies will be collected from 2025 through 2028 and are vital to maintaining and improving our schools.

The EP&O Levy accounts for 14% of our general fund, supporting essential staff and programs districtwide. Thank you for your continued support and for investing in a strong future for Lakewood students!



Thanks to the voter-approved EP&O Levy, we were happy to welcome **school resource officers** this year, in partnership with the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.



Athletics like Girls Flag Football, our newest varsity sport, help build confidence and connection to the school community. See lhscougarathletics.com for schedules.



LHS Drama performed the musical, "Little Shop of Horrors," this spring and the drama, "Little Women" last fall. Our next production will be announced soon!



From elementary to high school, our award-winning **music** groups perform regularly at school and in the community. Join us for an upcoming concert!



Capital Improvements and Safety Levy (2025-2028)

Thanks to the support of our voters, Lakewood School District continues to invest in projects that improve safety, security, and learning environments across our schools. These projects were identified as priorities by the Citizens' Facilities Advisory Committee in 2023.

✓ Completed Projects ✓

- New security fencing.
- Upgraded Lakewood Middle School fire alarm control panels for faster emergency response.
- Modern bell and intercom system at Lakewood Middle School to improve communication and safety.



Construction is underway this summer on the LMS cafeteria to address overcrowding and create a better experience for students. This is one of several facility improvements made possible through community support.

- Upgraded security cameras.

♿ Accessibility Matters

- New ramps at LMS/ECE portables.
- ADA door openers at LMS.

🔧 Projects Underway

- Replacement of aging boiler and HVAC system at Lakewood Elementary, funded through a state grant and the capital levy. (Summer 2026)
- Reconfigure LMS cafeteria to address overcrowding. (Summer 2026)

➡ What's Coming Next ➡

- Replace aging LMS roof
- Electrical upgrades

Thank you for investing in Lakewood students and schools! Improvements made today help ensure students have a welcoming place to learn tomorrow.



Lakewood School District
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Heart of Lakewood recipient inspires others

On June 17, the Lakewood Board of Directors proudly recognized its 2025-26 Heart of Lakewood recipient.

Sara Letellier has made a lasting impact on Lakewood schools, not only in her position as a paraeducator at Cougar Creek Elementary, but also in her leadership role as union president for Public School Employees of Lakewood.

Sara is active in various district committees, including the strategic planning committee and the budget advisory committee. She is always happy to take the time to listen, encourage, and offer assistance when needed.



View District Report Cards

See all district report cards at:
<https://bit.ly/4nkmJ8M> or scan the QR code.



LWSD.WEDNET.EDU



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/lakewoodschools

Lakewood School Board



- District #1: Steven Larson
- District #2: Catherine "Sandy" Gotts
- District #3: Dana Krueger
- District #4: Dawn Taylor
- District #5: Leah Tocco
- Student Advisor: Rubi Carmona-Rodriguez, LHS
- Student Advisor: Carter Langum, LHS

NON-DISCRIMINATION NOTICE:

Lakewood School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, homelessness, immigration or citizenship status, disability, neurodivergence, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, age, and honorably discharged veteran or military status and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Lakewood School District, 17110 16th Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98271, Attention: Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator, Timothy Haines, 360-652-4500, thaines@lwsd.wednet.edu or Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Lissan Wipfli, 360-652-4500, lwipfli@lwsd.wednet.edu. Title IX inquiries may also be directed toward the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR). Information about the nondiscrimination and sex-based discrimination policies and grievance procedures, and how to report a concern or complaint are at www.lwsd.wednet.edu.

