One Community | *One* School District | *Two* Levies
Reardan-Edwall School District
Educational Programs and Enrichment (EP&O) and Capital Levy



EP&O Levy - Proposition 1

Is this a new tax?

- No. This is a **replacement** of an existing levy that our community has supported for decades. **We are not asking for a higher levy rate.** We are asking our community to continue funding the programs, services, and staff positions that are already part of our schools.

What is the current rate and how does it compare to what the new rate will be?

- Our current EP&O levy rate is approximately $2.10 per $1,000 of assessed property value. The proposed replacement levy is estimated to be $2.00 per $1,000. For example, if you own a home assessed at $400,000, the EP&O levy would cost approximately $800 per year, or $67 per month. ***Our goal is to maintain the current levy rate while continuing to provide the educational experiences and services our students currently receive.*** It is important to note that unlike other levies, our school levies are a fixed dollar amount. Meaning, if your property value goes up, you will not pay a higher total dollar amount. The overall amount collected for this levy will be $2,097,297 in 2028, $2,202,145 in 2029, and $2,312,235 in 2030.

How often does the school district run this levy?

- Our district typically asks voters to renew the EP&O levy every three years. The last renewal was in February 2024. School levies are

temporary by design, meaning they have to go back to voters for approval. This gives our community the opportunity to periodically review how the money is being used.

Why do you have to run this? Doesn't the state fully fund education?

- This is a great question, and one we wish more people asked! Washington State is responsible for funding basic education. However, there is a significant difference between what the state considers basic education and what it actually costs to provide the education that is important for student growth and development. **For example, the state does not fully fund athletics, extracurricular activities, additional student support staff, school safety, nursing, or many of the essential educational opportunities.** Even some of our basic operating costs, such as insurance, utilities, and maintaining our facilities, exceed what the state provides. The EP&O levy helps fill that gap. Our mission is to ensure every student is Known, Loved, and Learning. Accomplishing that takes more than simply opening the school doors and meeting minimum state requirements. ***It takes caring adults, meaningful programs, safe schools, and opportunities for kids to discover their gifts and talents***.

The EP&O levy is what percent of the overall operating budget?

- The EP&O levy makes up approximately 16% of our district's annual operating budget. That is a significant portion of our funding. To put it into perspective, ***about 16 cents of every dollar we spend operating our schools comes from our local EP&O levy.***

What does the EP&O Levy pay for?

The EP&O levy supports a wide range of staff, programs, and services that directly impact our students. Some examples include:

- School safety and security personnel
- Nursing and counseling
- Additional teachers and instructional support staff
- Athletics and extracurricular activities
- Music, Art, FFA, and FCCLA
- Driver's education opportunities
- Facility maintenance and grounds support
- Academic opportunities beyond what the state fully funds

One thing we would emphasize is that these aren't simply extras. They are opportunities and services that help our students succeed. Whether it is a student finding a passion through FFA, an athlete learning teamwork, a child receiving additional reading support, or a student building a relationship with a trusted adult, these investments matter.

What will happen if the EP&O Levy does not pass?

- If the EP&O levy does not pass, our district would face a significant financial challenge. We would be looking at losing approximately 16% of our annual operating revenue. This would require some very difficult conversations and decisions about which programs, services, and positions we could continue to afford. The School Board would have to examine reductions to staffing, athletics, extracurricular activities, student support services, and other programs funded through the levy as we would be needing to cut over $2 million dollars from our operating budget. The reality is that we could not continue operating at our current level without making significant adjustments.

Do choice-in families contribute to the EP&O levy?

- Yes, but in a different way. Families who live outside our district boundaries do not pay our local EP&O property tax unless they own taxable property within our district. **However, when a family chooses to enroll their child in Reardan, state education funding follows that student to our district. That funding helps pay for**

teachers, classrooms, educational materials, and the other costs associated with educating that child. Choice students also contribute to the long-term strength of our district by helping us maintain enrollment, staffing, academic offerings, and extracurricular opportunities. We also think it is important to remember that these are our students, regardless of where their families live. Once they become part of Reardan, our commitment is to ensure they are Known, Loved, and Learning, just like every other student. Families who live in taxable areas are contributing to the school districts within which they live. Further, this year is the first year we are qualifying for federal IMPACT funds for children living in non-taxable areas (students living on Tribal lands).

Capital Levy - Proposition 2

Is this a new tax?

- Yes. Unlike Proposition 1, which replaces an existing levy, Proposition 2 is a new, six-year capital levy. We want to be very clear about that distinction. This levy would provide funds specifically to address some of our most pressing facility needs, including permanent classrooms and a multi-purpose learning space. We understand that asking our community to consider additional taxes is a big deal. That is precisely why we spent nearly three years studying our needs, engaging our community, and looking at different solutions before bringing this proposal forward.

What is the levy rate?

- The proposed capital levy rate is approximately $0.94 per $1,000 of assessed property value, for six years.

What was the planning/thought process leading up to running this levy?

We began this process back in 2023 with a comprehensive study of our school facilities, funded by the state. That study examined our buildings, enrollment, classroom space, and long-term facility needs. From there, we brought together a Facilities Advisory Committee, conducted community surveys, held interviews and focus groups, and eventually formed a **Community Facilities Solutions Committee made up of local citizens**. That committee spent months examining the data, touring our facilities, looking at enrollment projections, and evaluating different solutions. In May 2026, the committee unanimously forwarded three potential funding approaches to the School Board. We then conducted an independent phone survey to hear directly from our community about what people believed was needed and what they could afford. The survey found that 84% of respondents agreed our schools faced overcrowding and outdated facility issues, and 91% said it was important to maximize available state funding to reduce the cost to local taxpayers.

The Board ultimately selected the lowest-cost, shortest-term option presented.

What is the levy for and why?

At its core, this levy is about providing necessary and essential learning spaces for our students. We have grown as a district, and our facilities have not kept pace with that growth. We are now using temporary portable classrooms for a significant portion of our instructional space.

The proposed project would provide approximately 13,000 square feet of new space, including:

- Five permanent classrooms to replace portable classroom space.
- A multi-purpose facility for wrestling, performing arts, physical education, Options, other school activities, and community use.
- Supporting restrooms, storage, and secure building access.

This project would also allow us to better organize our middle school and high school learning spaces. One of our goals through Reardan 2030 is to

provide meaningful, engaging learning opportunities that help students discover and develop their gifts. Having appropriate spaces is an important part of making that happen. This isn't about building something fancy. It is about addressing actual needs and making sure our facilities support the education we are trying to provide.

What oversight will there be after the election to make sure the building gets built?

- We have established an oversight committee consisting of (7) community members. This committee will ensure the project is completed within budget in a timely manner.

What are some examples of facilities issues you are facing currently?

We would encourage anyone who has questions about our facility needs to come visit our schools. We think seeing them firsthand is the best way to understand our challenges.

Here are just a few examples:

- Portable classrooms: We currently have six portable buildings containing 12 classrooms. That represents roughly one-quarter of our instructional classroom capacity.
- Middle school space: We do not have a dedicated middle school area that adequately meets our needs. Students are spread across different parts of campus.
- Special education space: Some of our students receive services in portable classrooms that were not designed with their specific learning, therapy, and support needs in mind.
- Libraries: We have had to convert library spaces into classrooms because we simply do not have enough instructional space. **Our wrestling room is now located inside of our high school library!**
- Wrestling: Our wrestling program does not have a dedicated, appropriate practice space.

- Options Program: We have had to lease space off campus (in a church) to accommodate some of our students and programs.
- Shared spaces: Our cafeteria, gyms, and other spaces are being used for multiple purposes because we don't have adequate room for all our activities.

We are proud of how creative our staff have been in making things work. However, creativity can only get us so far. We also need to recognize that our buildings are aging. Our junior/senior high school is approaching 50 years old, and while we have been diligent about maintenance and securing grants, there are some needs that require a more permanent solution.

Why is the high school not included in the capital levy?

- Good question. We are in the middle of a $1.5 Million HVAC project in the high school that was paid for with a grant and are currently in the process (estimated to be about three years out) from attaining a Small District Modernization Grant of $6 million. Rather than address our high school needs now, we are going to work hard for that grant.

If you did not accept choice-in students, would you still have a facility issue?

- First, we have not added teachers or classrooms simply to accommodate choice-in students. We are very intentional about how many students we accept from outside our district boundaries. **We establish enrollment caps at each grade level based on available classroom space, staffing, and our ability to provide a quality education.** In fact, this school year alone, we have capped enrollment in over half of our grade levels, and we currently have waiting lists in many of those grades. We are not accepting every student who wants to attend Reardan. We make these decisions carefully because we recognize that our facilities and resources have limits. Second, our facility challenges exist regardless of choice enrollment. We have aging buildings, students learning in portable

classrooms, inadequate special education spaces, and limited room for physical education, performing arts, and other activities. These are needs that would not simply go away if we stopped accepting choice students. It is also worth recognizing that choice-in students bring state education funding to our district, which helps us maintain programs, staffing, electives, and extracurricular opportunities that benefit all students. **At the end of the day, our facility needs are not the result of expanding classrooms or adding teachers to accommodate choice-in students.** They are the result of existing facility limitations and our desire to provide appropriate, permanent learning spaces for the students we serve. Our responsibility is to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars while ensuring that every student who walks through our doors is Known, Loved, and Learning.

Will the wrestling team not having a room be addressed with this levy?

- Yes. One of the intended uses of the proposed multi-purpose facility is to provide space for our wrestling program.

What are some possible uses of the multi-purpose room?

This is one of the aspects of the project that we are particularly excited about because of the flexibility it would provide.

Rather than creating a room that serves one program for a few hours each day, we want a space that can serve many different students, programs, and community needs.

Some potential uses include:

- Wrestling practices and other athletic activities
- Physical education classes
- Performing arts, music, and drama activities
- Options Program classes

- Student presentations and exhibitions
- School assemblies and special events
- After-school programs and clubs
- Community meetings and activities

Are we receiving any state match fund/assistance funds?

- **Yes! We receive roughly $4 Million from the State if we can fund $6.7 Million locally.**

If this levy does not pass, would we lose the state match money?

- **We only receive state match if we pass the levy. If the capital levy does not pass in February, we will lose roughly $1M in state match dollars. Meaning, state match dollars will decrease, and the local share (tax) will increase on a future levy.**

What is the plan regarding facilities to continue to meet the needs of students?

School Year	Projects	Funding source
2026-2027	• Replace High School HVAC • Install new track • Install new elementary playground equipment • Install ADA accessible bathroom in the HS gym.	Grants, general fund and state capital budget - **no additional cost to taxpayers.**
2027-2028	**NEXT PHASE - address two old temporary portables, address wrestling, address Options growth, dedicated space for middle school students.**	Capital Levy, February 27' - see details above.

	● Start work on a new middle school addition and mult-purpose room. ● Petition the legislature to fund small school modernization planning grant to upgrade essential components of the high school (roof, science lab, flooring, shop, ADA restrooms, special education, etc.)	
2028-2029	**PHASE III - Address aging high school facility** ● Fulfill planning for $6M small school modernization planning grant. If we are not able to access this funding source, we'll need to consider running a bond or capital levy to get this work done.	Grant funded
Estimated 2030-2031	**PHASE III - Address aging high school facility** ● If funded, start work on renovating the high school building and shop.	Grant funded

Important Note: We have worked with a demographer in recent years and will need to consider plans for additional classrooms when the proposed capital levy expires.

OTHER

Do the portables need to be addressed at the Options Village?
There is no immediate plan to replace the Options portables as that offsite campus seems to be working well, and as such, we'll continue to maintain those buildings as long as needed.

What about the portable you had donated from the North Kitsap School District last summer?
That portable is in great shape and we'll plan to use it for high school classes for the indefinite future.

What about the portable that has the agriculture classroom and kitchen?
The agriculture program will be addressed within the high school remodel.

What about the tennis courts?
The current plan is to continue looking for grants to improve the tennis courts.

What about the aging transportation building?
The state has a program that funds 90% of approved costs for a transportation cooperative. This will likely be included on a future levy or bond (years down the road) but there is no immediate plan to address this.