



# Seattle Public Schools

## LEVY Information

WINTER 2004

### DELIVERING ON THE DREAM

Academic Achievement for Every Student in Every School



## Seattle residents will have an opportunity to vote on two school levies—Tuesday, February 3, 2004

- Both measures renew existing levies, are part of the District's 10-year levy plan and will result in tax rates at or below current levels.
- The Educational Programs & Operations Levy, which accounts for 23 percent of the District's annual operating budget, supports educational services not fully funded by the state. Every dollar raised through this levy pays for programs and services that support student learning and promote academic achievement.
- The capital levy is part of the District's long-range plan to upgrade and renovate aging school facilities on a planned and predictable timetable.

### Educational Programs & Operations Levy \$338 million (Proposition 1)

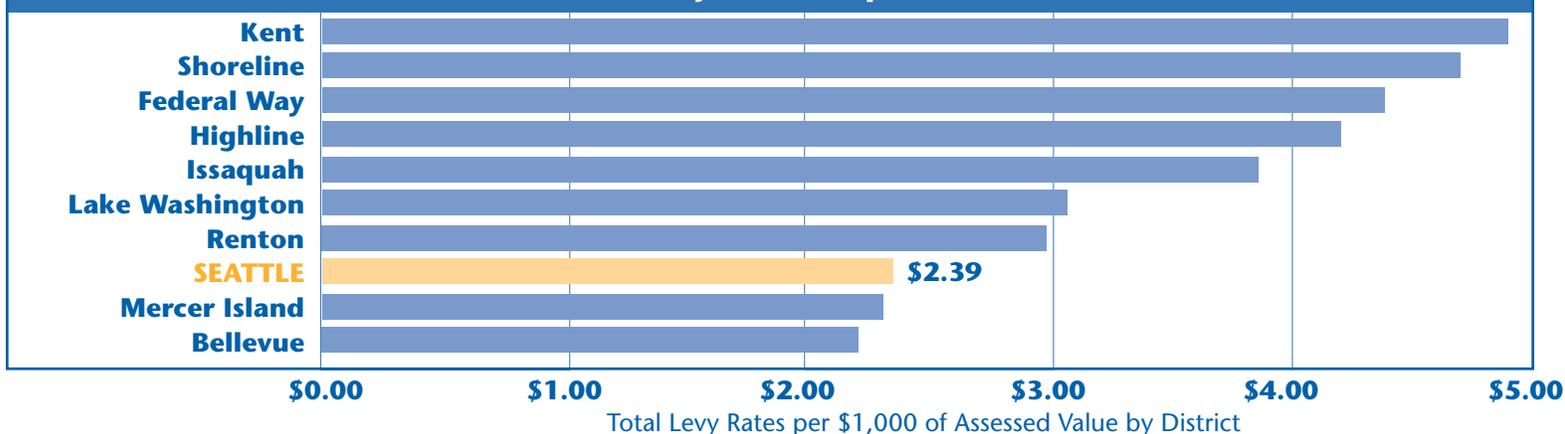
- Represents 23 percent of the District's annual general fund budget.
- Supports basic educational programs not fully funded by the state.
- Pays for lowered class size, instructional programs, technology support, student activities — including athletic, music and drama programs that are outside the regular school day — transportation services, security, and maintenance for school buildings and grounds.
- Replaces an expiring, three-year levy that voters approved in 2001 and have supported every three years since 1976.

### Capital Levy \$178 million (Proposition 2)

- Pays for nearly 700 projects, improving every school in the District, and contains three major components: Buildings, Technology and Academics.
- The Building component includes roofing, exterior renovations, life safety and mechanical systems, playgrounds, school interiors, furniture and upgrades to ensure that buildings are physically accessible to all.
- The Technology component includes teaching and learning tools, systemwide upgrades and equipment such as computers, printers, scanners and projectors.
- The Academic component includes improvements to library, science, music and arts facilities, renovations to support small learning communities, and upgrades to athletic fields used by both schools and the community.
- Replaces the Buildings, Technology and Athletics Levy approved by voters in 1998, which funded more than 465 projects throughout the District.

**FACT:** Seattle has one of the lowest levy rates in the region. Of 10 local school districts in the Puget Sound area, Seattle has the third lowest levy rate.

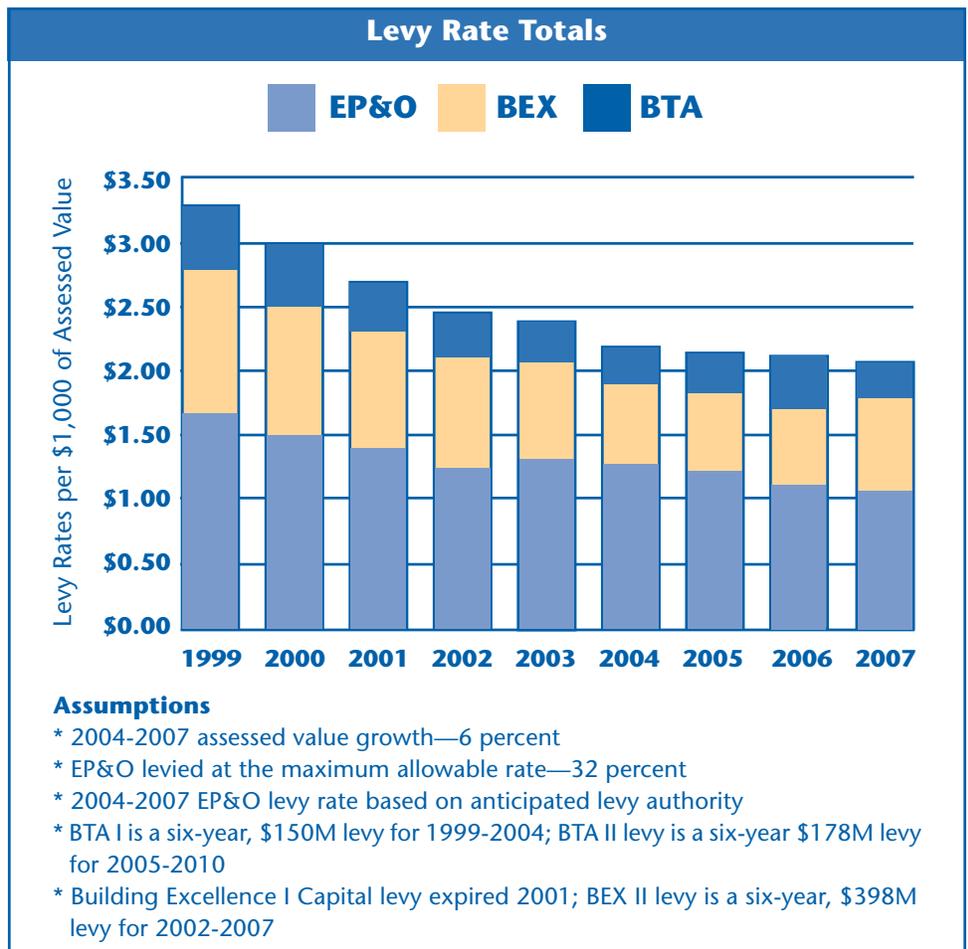
2003 Levy Rate Comparison



**FACT:** The tax rate for Seattle school levies will remain at or below current levels.

The Educational Programs & Operations levy and the capital levy replace existing levies. Assuming that property values increase at 6 percent per year, the tax rate for Seattle school levies will decrease from \$2.39 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2003 to \$2.12 per thousand of assessed valuation in 2007.

That is because levy rates are calculated to generate a fixed amount of money and the assessed valuation of real property should continue to rise in future years. At the 2003 rate, a homeowner pays \$833 per year on a home assessed at \$350,000. People who are 61 years of age or older and whose household income is less than \$30,000 may qualify for an exemption from all or part of this levy (see back page).



## Seattle Public Schools: District Highlights

### Student Enrollment—October 2003

Elementary (K-5)	22,124
Middle School (6-8)	10,199
High School (9-12)	14,422
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,745</b>

### Students by Ethnicity

African American	23%
American Indian	2%
Asian	23%
Caucasian	41%
Latino	11%

### Student Services

- \* 39 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunch
- \* 13 percent of students receive special education services
- \* 12.5 percent of students qualify for English as a Second Language services
- \* Students in Seattle Public Schools speak more than 80 languages



### Student Achievement

- \* In 2003, scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) continued to show improvement. The largest gains were at middle school, with seventh grade scores increasing in every subject area tested.
- \* Since 1999, reading scores increased nearly 8 percentage points at grades four and seven, and 17 points at grade ten. Writing scores were up nearly 20 points at grade four, 18 points at grade seven and 20 points at grade ten. Math scores were up 17 points at grade four, seven points at grade seven and 10 points at grade ten.
- \* At the fourth grade level, African American students made some of the largest gains on the WASL, increasing their scores by 9 percentage points in math, 13 points in writing and 3 points in reading.
- \* In 2003, Seattle students posted the largest gains on the Scholastic Aptitude Test since 1998, exceeding state and national averages. At the same time, more students than ever are taking the college entrance exam. Scores increased from 1058 in 2002 to 1071 in 2003, a 13 point gain. Scores are up a total of 56 points since 1995.
- \* Dropout and truancy rates are down.
- \* Suspensions and expulsions are down.
- \* Referrals to special education are down.

# Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O): Proposition 1

The EP&O levy funds important educational programs and practices that support student learning. These include:

## Instruction and teacher development

- Teaching positions to reduce class size
- Counselors, librarians, activity coordinators, instructional assistants and other staff whose work supports student achievement
- One full-day kindergarten program at each school
- Bilingual education services
- Special education services
- Programs to help at-risk students
- Professional development for teachers and other certificated staff
- Summer Semester and other extended learning opportunities
- Student activities including athletics, band, choir, and drama



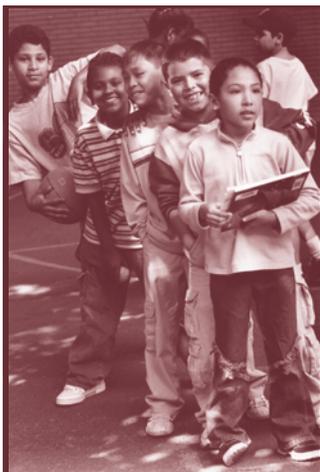
## Improvements to the learning environment for students

- Building repairs, painting and grounds maintenance
- Support for classroom computers and technology
- School security monitors
- Custodial support

## Transportation to and from school

**FACT:** The money to operate Seattle Public Schools comes from multiple sources, with the largest share (55 percent) provided by the state and the second largest share by the local levy (23 percent).

### 2003-2004 Adopted Budget



#### Non-Capital Revenues by Source

<b>Local Taxes (EP&amp;O Levy)</b>	<b>\$101,559,000</b>	<b>23.2%</b>
<b>Local Non-Tax</b>	<b>\$25,434,000</b>	<b>5.8%</b>
<b>State General</b>	<b>\$186,866,000</b>	<b>42.8%</b>
<b>State Special</b>	<b>\$54,132,000</b>	<b>12.4%</b>
<b>Federal</b>	<b>\$59,085,000</b>	<b>13.5%</b>
<b>Other Agencies</b>	<b>\$9,951,000</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$437,027,000</b>	

## Capital Levy: Proposition 2

The capital levy continues the Buildings, Technology and Athletic Fields (BTA I) levy approved by Seattle voters in 1998. The BTA I program is on time and within budget. After two years of planning and community outreach, the Seattle School Board approved the 2004 capital levy program, which would fund nearly 700 projects, improving every school across the city. The levy contains three major components - Buildings (\$95.5 million), Technology (\$42.75 million) and Academics (\$39.75 million), for a total of \$178 million.

### Buildings \$95.5 million

Seattle Public Schools has 103 schools and buildings with an average age of 40 years. The buildings component of the capital levy covers 321 separate projects that maintain the physical integrity of the District's schools and buildings. These projects include roof replacements, exterior renovations, mechanical systems, life safety improvements, internal finishes, playground repair and furniture replacement.

#### Roof Replacement \$25 million

Replace all or portions of roofs to protect 31 school buildings from water damage.

Alki, Arbor Heights, Daniel Bagley, Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, B.F. Day, Eckstein, Fairmount Park, Nathan Hale, Ingraham, M.L. King, Lafayette, Laurelhurst, Lowell, Loyal Heights, Magnolia Building, John Marshall, McDonald Building, T.T. Minor, Montlake, North Beach, Orca, Salmon Bay, Sanislo, Chief Sealth, Summit K-12, TOPS, Van Asselt, Viewlands, Washington, Whitman

#### Exterior Renovations \$24.6 million

Replace siding and/or windows to protect 53 school buildings, improve energy efficiency, and upgrade seismic systems.

Alki, Alternative Elementary #2, Alternative School #1, Arbor Heights, Daniel Bagley, Bilingual Orientation Center (Old Hay), Catharine Blaine, Dearborn Park, Denny, Eckstein, Fairmount Park, Graham Hill, Nathan Hale, Ingraham, M.L. King, Aki Kurose, Lafayette, Laurelhurst, Lowell, Loyal Heights, Wing Luke, Magnolia Building, John Marshall, McClure, McDonald Building, McGilvra, Meany, Mercer, T.T. Minor, Montlake, North Beach, Northgate, Nova, Olympic Hills, Orca, Pathfinder, Rainier Beach, Rainier View, John Rogers, Roxhill, Sacajawea, Salmon Bay, Sanislo, Schmitz Park, Chief Sealth, Summit K-12, Van Asselt, Viewlands, View Ridge, Washington, Wedgwood, West Woodland, Whitman

#### Mechanical Systems/Air Quality \$22.1 million

Replace steam pipes, water lines, boilers, plumbing and/or fire sprinklers; improve air quality and install new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems as needed at 61 schools and buildings.

Adams, Alki, Alternative Elementary #2, Alternative School #1, Arbor Heights, Daniel Bagley, Beacon Hill, Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, B.F. Day, Dearborn Park, Denny, Eckstein, Franklin, Gatewood, Bailey Gatzert, Graham Hill, Nathan Hale, Hawthorne, John Hay, High Point, Ingraham, Kimball, M.L. King, Aki Kurose, Lafayette, Laurelhurst, Leschi, Loyal Heights, Wing Luke, Magnolia Building, Maple, John Marshall, McClure, McGilvra, Meany, T. T. Minor, Montlake, John Muir, Nova, North Beach, Northgate, Olympic Hills, Olympic View, Orca, Pathfinder, Rainier Beach, Rainier View, John Rogers, Sacajawea, Salmon Bay, Sanislo, Chief Sealth, Summit K-12, Van Asselt, Viewlands, View Ridge, Washington, West Woodland, Whitman, Whitworth

#### Life Safety/ADA Improvements \$8.2 million

Upgrade fire alarms, perform hazardous material abatement and improve ADA access, install elevators, and improve exit lighting so schools are physically accessible to all. Work to be completed at 46 schools and buildings.

Alternative Elementary #2, Alternative School #1, Arbor Heights, Beacon Hill, Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, Dearborn Park, Denny, Eckstein, Franklin, Gatewood, Bailey Gatzert, Green Lake, Nathan Hale, Hawthorne, High Point, Ingraham, Kimball, Aki Kurose, Lafayette, Lawton, Leschi, Wing Luke, Maple, Thurgood Marshall, McClure, Meany, Mercer, North Beach, Northgate, Olympic Hills, Olympic View, Rainier Beach, Rainier View, John Rogers, Roxhill, Sacajawea, Sanislo, Schmitz Park, Chief Sealth, Summit K-12, View Ridge, Washington, Wedgwood, West Woodland, Whitman

## **Interior Finishes/Floor Coverings** **\$11.5 million**

Replace selected flooring, blinds and shades, and/or ceilings at 53 schools.

Adams, Alki, Alternative Elementary #2, Alternative School #1, Arbor Heights, Daniel Bagley, Beacon Hill, Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, B.F. Day, Dearborn Park, Denny, Eckstein, Franklin, Gatewood, Bailey Gatzert, Graham Hill, Green Lake, Nathan Hale, Hawthorne, High Point, Ingraham, Kimball, Aki Kurose, Lafayette, Lawton, Leschi, Wing Luke, Thurgood Marshall, McClure, Meany, Mercer, John Muir, North Beach, Northgate, Olympic Hills, Olympic View, Rainier Beach, Rainier View, John Rogers, Roxhill, Sacajawea, Sanislo, Schmitz Park, Chief Sealth, Summit K-12, Van Asselt, View Ridge, Washington, Wedgwood, West Woodland, Whitman, Whitworth

## **Playgrounds** **\$2.6 million**

Improve condition of playgrounds, including drainage improvements and asphalt upgrades at 24 schools.

Alternative Elementary #2, Alternative School #1, B.F. Day, Dearborn Park, Gatewood, Bailey Gatzert, Green Lake, Hawthorne, Kimball, Loyal Heights, Maple, McGilvra, Mercer, Montlake, John Muir, North Beach, Olympic Hills, Olympic View, Orca, John Rogers, Schmitz Park, Viewlands, Wedgwood, West Woodland

## **Furniture** **\$1.5 million**

Selectively replace old student desks and chairs and teacher and staff furniture at 53 schools.

Adams, Alki, Alternative Elementary #2, Alternative School #1, Arbor Heights, Daniel Bagley, Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, B.F. Day, Denny, Eckstein, Fairmount Park, Bailey Gatzert, Green Lake, Nathan Hale, Ingraham, Kimball, M.L. King, Aki Kurose, Lafayette, Laurelhurst, Lowell, Loyal Heights, John Marshall, Thurgood Marshall, McClure, McGilvra, Meany, Mercer, T.T. Minor, Montlake, North Beach, Northgate, Nova, Olympic Hills, Orca, Pathfinder, Rainier Beach, Rainier View, John Rogers, Roxhill, Sacajawea, Salmon Bay, Sanislo, Schmitz Park, Chief Sealth, Summit K-12, Van Asselt, Viewlands, View Ridge, Washington, Wedgwood, Whitman



## **Technology** **\$42.75 million**

Seattle Public Schools has a master technology plan, updated in March 2003, that guides the District's approach to using technology as a tool to enhance teaching and learning. The plan also guides the development of information systems that help teachers, administrators and others more effectively use and manage the wealth of data in the school system. The School Board's ten-year levy plan calls for including a technology component in each capital levy put before voters. This helps ensure that technology tools and systems are renewed on an ongoing basis.

## **Enhance school and classroom-based technology services at all schools** **\$22.18 million**

**Student information system expansion.** Expand systems that enhance reports available to teachers and that support student instruction and assessment - *\$1.43 million*

**Computer replacements.** Begin the systematic replacement and recycling of older computers for student and staff use - *\$11.25 million*

**Purchase and replace technology teaching tools.** Provide teaching and learning tools such as video projectors, large-screen televisions, digital cameras, scanners and printers - *\$4 million*

**Install servers at schools.** Install servers at all schools to increase network efficiency and reduce support costs - *\$1 million*

**Special education system.** Implement a new system to improve the ability to effectively manage special education services, including compliance and reporting, at all schools serving special education students - *\$2 million*

**Library resources and on-line learning.** Increase access for all students to electronic teaching and learning resources. Includes subscriptions to databases, e-books, hardware and software to support curriculum at every school library. Install assistive technology to support special education students - *\$1.5 million*

**Library systems.** Install new library software and services in partnership with Seattle Public Library. Enhance security systems in secondary school libraries - *\$1 million*

## Upgrade critical District computer systems

**\$13.32 million**

**Replace obsolete systems.** Replace older systems including those that support student assignment, transportation, athletics, supplementary education services and bilingual education. Replacement will maximize the total function of all computer systems and enhance system reliability - *\$8.5 million*

**Implement business systems improvements.** Implement recommendations made in the independent review of Seattle Public Schools' business systems and processes conducted in April 2003. Improvements enhance the ability to manage fiscal resources; integrate personnel, payroll and financial systems; and enhance systems to provide effective reporting at operational, management and executive levels - *\$4.07 million*

**Update District-wide software.** Centralize major software applications including e-mail, office and security systems, saving money and staff time - *\$0.75 million*

## Upgrade computer networks at all schools

**\$7.25 million**

**Expand fiber networks to elementary and K-8 schools to support increased Internet access, e-learning and other educational technology tools** - *\$5 million*

**Network equipment and software.** Replace older and non-standard school-based network equipment. Purchase network management software to administer the District's Wide Area Network - *\$1.5 million*

**Instructional Broadcast Center.** Upgrade equipment. Enable web casting to schools and the Stanford Center to support extended learning and communications - *\$0.75 million*

## Academics

**\$39.75 million**

Classrooms and schools across our District are transforming the way they work to help ensure that all students are equipped to meet the demands of the 21st century and thrive in their future endeavors. The "academics" component of the capital levy provides for improvements and upgrades to literacy, arts, and science facilities; high schools; athletic facilities; and a range of other projects.

## Upgrade literacy, arts & science facilities

**\$8.55 million**

**Art/Music/Auditorium Facility Improvements.** Upgrade performing arts facilities or music rooms at 17 schools, including improvement of stage flooring, lighting, seating, curtains and acoustic sound - Alternative School #1, Arbor Heights, Daniel Bagley, Beacon Hill, Eckstein, Franklin, Lafayette, Meany, T.T. Minor, Northgate, John Rogers, Roxhill, Sacajawea, Summit K-12, Van Asselt, Wedgwood, Whitman - *\$3.3 million*

**Library Improvements.** Renovate libraries at 24 schools, including space expansions, removing or relocating interior walls, and upgrading interior appointments such as window shades, windows, carpets, furniture, hard surfaces and circulation desks - Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, B.F. Day, Fairmount Park, Franklin, Bailey Gatzert, Hawthorne, Kimball, Aki Kurose, Leschi, McGilvra, Meany, T.T. Minor, Montlake, Northgate, Olympic Hills, Roxhill, Salmon Bay, Sanislo, Viewlands, View Ridge, Washington, Wedgwood, West Woodland - *\$2.5 million*

**Science Facility Improvements.** Improve science facilities to support teaching and learning to District academic standards for science and Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) requirements for science testing at 16 secondary and K-8 schools. Includes conversions of general use classrooms into science facilities, modernization of obsolete labs to support current academic standards, upgrades to facilities to meet health and safety standards, and modernization of heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems. Upgrade instructional facilities at Cleveland Memorial Forest to enhance teaching and learning in earth sciences - Alternative School #1, Ballard, Catharine Blaine, Denny, Eckstein, Franklin, Aki Kurose, John Marshall, McClure, Meany, Mercer, Nova, Salmon Bay, Summit K-12, Washington, Whitman - *\$2.75 million*



## Academics

**\$39.75 million** -continued

### High School Improvements

**\$11.5 million**

**Renovate and modernize existing facilities at four high schools.** Work supports transformation plans, including collaborative learning spaces, teacher-planning areas, and other community support spaces  
- Nathan Hale, Ingraham, Rainier Beach, Chief Sealth



### Athletics Improvements

**\$15.4 million**

**Upgrade athletic fields, including baseball and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts.** Install new turf (synthetic and natural) for football, soccer and track fields and improve locker rooms at Rainier Beach High School - Ballard, Eckstein, Franklin, Garfield, Rainier Beach, John Rogers, Roosevelt, Salmon Bay, Van Asselt, Whitman - *\$10.1 million*

**Improve Memorial Stadium.** Reroof and modernize locker rooms, upgrade concession facilities to improve health and safety, modernize timekeeping devices and press area, and complete upgrades so stadium facilities are accessible to all - *\$5.3 million*

### Other Academic Improvements

**\$4.3 million**

**Childcare Facilities Upgrades.** Upgrade or modernize existing dedicated childcare facilities at selected schools to meet new state standards and community learning needs - High Point Elementary School and others to be identified - *\$700,000*

**Montlake Elementary.** Replace old portables at Montlake to provide a safe and healthy environment for teaching and learning - *\$500,000*

**Orca School Science Facilities.** Build new science annex and greenhouse to support conversion of the current K-5 program into a K-8 school - *\$2.25 million*

**South Lake High School.** Provide funding for planning and design in anticipation of relocation to another site - *\$500,000*

**Seahawks Leadership Academy.** Upgrade school facilities to support school transformation plan - *\$350,000*

## Status of Current Levy Projects

Seattle Public Schools is currently implementing two capital levies. The six-year Buildings, Technology and Athletic Fields (BTA I) levy, approved by voters in 1998, provided for 465 upgrades and renewals at every school across the District. The majority of projects have been completed, the remainder will be finished by the time the levy expires in 2004. The proposed 2004 capital levy described in this booklet will renew the BTA I levy. Work on Building Excellence II, approved by voters in 2001, is well underway. This six-year levy provides for new construction, renovation or additions at 17 school buildings. Work on The Center School and Ingraham High School is complete. Projects are currently underway at Brighton, Graham Hill, Madison and Wing Luke.

For more information, visit [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org) and click on "Levy Information".

## Timing of Levy Requests

Under the District's 10-year levy plan, approved by the School Board, the District intends to submit capital levy requests every three years. These capital levy requests will alternate between a major six-year capital levy (such as Building Excellence, approved in 1995 and 2001), and a smaller six-year capital levy (such as the capital levy on the 2004 ballot which renews the Buildings, Technology and Athletics Field levy passed in 1998.)

Although voters can approve an operations levy for up to four years, Seattle's Levy Plan calls for the District to submit three-year operations levy requests to coincide with its capital requests. Combining levy requests in accordance with a predictable schedule allows for the maintenance of a level tax rate, and saves the cost of additional elections.

**Voter Registration  
Vote by Mail**

For information on how to register to vote or to request a ballot by mail, go to [www.metrokc.gov/elections](http://www.metrokc.gov/elections) or call the King County Records and Elections Division at 206-296-VOTE (206-296-8683).

**Senior and disabled citizen tax exemptions**

Those who are 61 years of age or older and whose household income is less than \$30,000 may qualify for an exemption from all or part of this levy. Regardless of age, persons who have a disability that prevents them from being employed may also qualify for this exemption. To apply for an exemption, contact the King County Assessor's Office for application forms at 206-296-3920.

**Levy validation**

As required by state law, validation of school levies follows the 60/40 rule. A levy will be approved if the measures receive a supermajority "yes" vote of 60 percent. In addition, at least 40 percent of the total number of voters who cast a ballot in the November 2003 election must vote on Tuesday, February 3, 2004 in order to validate the school levy vote.

**This publication is intended to provide factual information related to the Seattle School District's February 3 levy election, in accordance with RCW 28A.320.090, which authorizes preparation and distribution of information to the general public that explains the District's instructional programs, operations, and maintenance of its schools.**

**Seattle Public Schools**

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[www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org)

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**February 3: School Levy Information**