



EVERY STUDENT ACHIEVING
EVERYONE ACCOUNTABLE

Seattle Public Schools

Levy Information

WINTER 2009

School Levies Election

Seattle residents will have an opportunity to vote on two school levies — Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2010



At Seattle Public Schools, we are committed to providing an excellent education for every student and to ensuring that every school is an excellent school. These levies play an important role in our ability to meet our goals to raise student achievement as outlined in our strategic plan, *Excellence for All*.

Both measures will replace existing levies, are part of Seattle Public Schools' long-term levy plan and will result in tax rates at current levels.

The Operations Levy accounts for nearly one-quarter of the district's annual operating budget.

The Capital Levy is part of Seattle Public Schools' long-range plan to upgrade and renovate aging school facilities on a planned and predictable timetable.

Capital Levy

\$270 million (Proposition 1)

Pays for projects that benefit every school in the district including many small renovations, major maintenance and improvement projects, technology, and academic projects.

Buildings projects help address basic health and safety improvements, such as roof replacement, seismic upgrades, building systems, energy-efficiency projects, and deferred maintenance.

Technology projects support student learning and improve business efficiency, including instructional tools and training to directly support students and teachers.

Academics components support improvements in the way student services are delivered such as: opening buildings to meet growth in enrollment and serve students closer to home; modifications for Special Education, Early Learning, science and computer classrooms; assessment tools; Skills Center and athletic fields.

Replaces the expiring Buildings, Technology and Academics Levy II approved by voters in 2004, which funded more than 600 projects at schools throughout the district.

Operations Levy

\$442.7 million (Proposition 2)

Represents nearly one-quarter of Seattle Public Schools' annual general fund budget.

Supports basic educational programs not fully funded by the state.

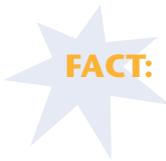
Although subject to the Board of Directors' discretion as part of the annual budget process, past operating levies, partially paid for instructional programs; full-day kindergarten; a sixth period at high schools; student activities such as athletics, drama and music; bilingual and special education services; textbooks and classroom supplies, transportation and security. Replaces the expiring three-year levy that voters approved in 2007 and have supported every three years since 1976.

FACT: Seattle has the lowest levy rate in the region.

2009 Levy Rate Comparison

Total Levy Rates per \$1,000 of Assessed Value by District

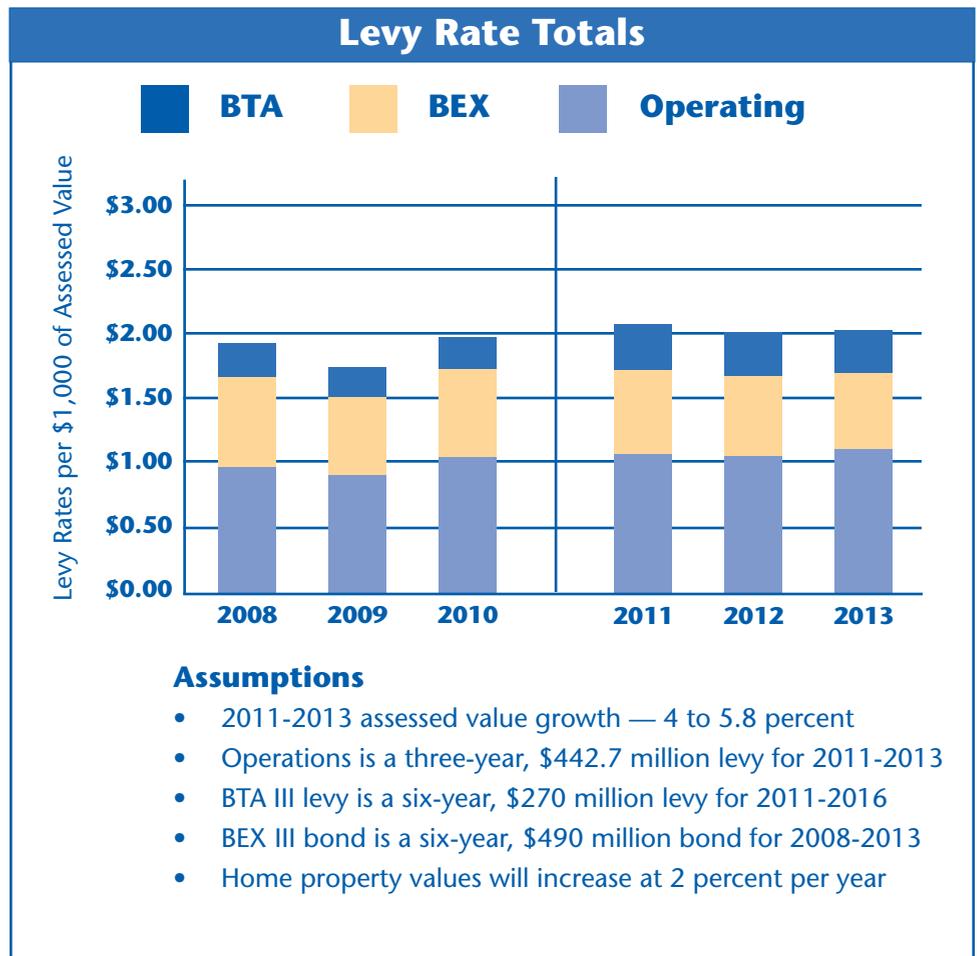




FACT: Over the life of the school levies, the tax rate will remain at current levels.

The Operations Levy and the Capital Levy replace existing levies. Over the past 10 years, levy/bond rates have remained steady between \$1.70 and \$2.25 per thousand dollars of assessed value, for all levies combined. The rate for 2011-2013 would range from \$1.99 to \$2.05, based on the assumptions (noted in the chart to the right) that total city assessed value will increase at a rate ranging from 4 percent to 5.8 percent and home property values will increase at a rate of 2 percent.

A homeowner whose home has an assessed value of \$400,000 is estimated to pay \$820 to \$830 per year total in school property taxes in 2011-2013 for all levies combined. Some homeowners may qualify for a tax exemption (see back page).



Seattle Public Schools: District Highlights

Student Enrollment — October 2009

Elementary (K-5)	23,313
Middle School (6-8)	9,401
High School (9-12)	13,230
Total	45,944

Students by Ethnicity

African American	21%
American Indian	2%
Asian	22%
Caucasian	44%
Latino	11%

Student Services

- 40% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- 12.5% of students receive Special Education services
- 12% of students qualify for English as a Second Language services

Excellence for All

SPS is committed to all students graduating ready for college, careers and life. In 2009:

- SPS students met or exceeded the average scores for the state on 19 out of 20 subjects and grade levels tested on the WASL — a significant achievement for an urban school district.
- More than 94 percent of seniors met or exceeded standards on state tests.
- The percentage of students who exceed state standards on WASL tests is an important measure of instructional quality. Third-graders exceeding standards on the state reading test rose to 44 percent and fourth-graders exceeding standards on the state math test rose to 42 percent.



- Middle and high school bands, orchestras and jazz bands consistently take top honors in regional and national music festivals.
- Students in career and technical education programs frequently place high in regional and national competitions.
- The number of advanced placement and International Baccalaureate classes at high schools increased by 30 percent in 2009 compared with 2008.
- The number of national board-certified teachers doubled in 2008, and Seattle teachers have a first-time passage rate that is higher than the national average.

Capital Levy: Proposition 1

The capital levy replaces the expiring Buildings, Technology and Academics II (BTA II) levy approved by Seattle voters in 2004. After two years of planning and community engagement, the Seattle School Board approved the 2010 capital levy program. The Buildings, Technology and Academics III (BTA III) levy would improve schools in every area of the city. BTA III includes three major components — Buildings (\$140.5 million), Technology (\$34.9 million) and Academics (\$94.6 million) — for a total of \$270 million.

Buildings \$140.5 million*

The buildings component of the capital levy includes projects that address basic health and safety issues and that maintain the physical integrity of the District's schools and buildings.

These projects include major preventive maintenance; roof replacement/seismic diaphragm work; fire suppression/sprinklers/ADA/life safety; seismic/unreinforced masonry; heating/ventilation/cooling systems; waterline replacement; energy efficiency and green projects; maintenance, grounds and custodial equipment; electrical systems upgrades; exterior window repair; student nutritional services equipment and communication/security systems.

**The total levy amount includes \$32.7 million for cost escalation and other program-related costs over the six-year life of the levy.*

Major preventive maintenance and painting of buildings \$18 million

State law recently changed to allow use of capital funds for preventive maintenance. SPS is taking advantage of this change by creating a preventive maintenance program that will establish a routine painting schedule, routine inspection and servicing of building systems and re-establish crews for this purpose.

Districtwide

Roof replacement/seismic diaphragm \$10.7 million

Replace all or portions of roofs and make earthquake safety improvements at 11 schools to protect students, staff and the integrity of the buildings. To be good stewards of district buildings, critical repair — such as roof replacement — must be made to buildings in inventory even if not currently occupied by students (for example, T.T. Minor).

Catharine Blaine, Hawthorne, John Marshall, McDonald, Meany, Memorial Stadium, T.T. Minor, Montlake, Salmon Bay@Monroe, Washington, Whitworth

Fire suppression/sprinklers and/or ADA/life safety \$15.5 million

Install fire suppression/sprinklers and/or ADA/life safety systems at 15 buildings (17 projects*) to increase safety and improve accessibility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Adams, Bagley, Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, Eckstein, Gatewood, Graham Hill, Lafayette, Laurelhurst, Loyal Heights, Lowell*, McGilvra, Meany, Mercer, Thornton Creek@Decatur*

** Lowell and Laurelhurst will have sprinklers installed, as well as ADA/life safety improvements.*

Seismic/unreinforced masonry \$13.2 million

Reinforce masonry to improve earthquake safety at three buildings, protecting students, teachers and staff, as well as the integrity of the buildings.

B.F. Day, Meany, Salmon Bay@Monroe



Heating/ventilation/cooling systems \$13.4 million

Install new heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems at seven buildings to improve air quality and energy efficiency, and to more effectively control the temperature of the learning environment.

Dearborn Park, Eckstein, Lafayette, Laurelhurst, McGilvra, Montlake and Wing Luke

Buildings

\$140.5 million – *continued*

Energy efficiency and green projects

\$27.7 million

Install ground-source heat pumps at three schools and high-efficiency boilers in three buildings to enhance energy efficiency, reduce carbon footprint and allow more effective control of temperatures throughout the buildings.

Ground-source heat pumps: *John Hay, Olympic View, West Woodland*

High-efficiency boilers: *Adams, Leschi, John Muir*

Waterline replacement

\$4 million

Replace waterlines at 13 buildings to improve water quality. These projects continue the work of replacing old waterlines to ensure a safe and healthy environment for students and staff and to meet the School Board's Drinking Water Quality policy.

Arbor Heights, Bagley, Catharine Blaine, Broadview-Thomson, Eckstein, Ingraham, Loyal Heights, Maple, McGilvra, Meany, Northgate, Sacajawea, Thornton Creek@Decatur

Technology

\$34.9 million

Building an infrastructure that works well is a key goal of Seattle Public Schools' strategic plan, Excellence for All. This includes making strategic investments in technology to support learning and teaching in the classroom; to deliver services to students, teachers, staff and families; and to improve efficiency and reduce the costs of business processes. BTA III technology projects support these goals.



Capital eligible equipment

\$4 million

Fund routine replacement of equipment for school kitchens, district gardeners and district custodians such as dishwashers, ovens and serving equipment at schools; large and small lawnmowers and carpet cleaning equipment.

Districtwide

Electrical systems upgrades

\$849,000

Upgrade electrical systems at four buildings to reduce energy use and modernize systems.

Broadview-Thomson, Graham Hill, Lowell, Loyal Heights

Exterior renovations

\$303,000

Replace windows and upgrade exterior walls at four buildings to improve energy efficiency and enhance building comfort for students, teachers and staff members.

Aki Kurose, Ballard, Bagley, Gatewood

Communications/security system

\$100,000

Improve the communications/security system at Roosevelt High School by installing equipment such as security cameras, security alarms and other security hardware.

Enhance technology-based tools for students and teachers

\$10.8 million

Student information systems. Continue to expand student information systems to provide teachers with valuable data in support of academic achievement.

Instructional technology support. Provide support needed so that teachers and students can better use classroom technology as a learning tool.

Library technology services support. Fund library services that assist with instruction and provide better access to information databases, textbook materials and student support.

Academic data warehouse. Implement a new academic data management system that integrates multiple sources of information, allowing program managers, principals and teachers to access the data needed to improve student achievement.

Technology

\$34.9 million – *continued*

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)

Computer Hardware. Install new student personal computers, academic software and wireless network to support implementation of STEM at Cleveland High School.

Upgrade school-based and district-wide technology systems

\$8.8 million

Web technology upgrade. Improve the district's Web site to provide more interactivity and information for students, families and staff.

Electronic records management. Identify electronic records, manage storage and simplify retrieval to meet state requirements.

IT disaster recovery. Develop disaster recovery systems for priority information technology so that learning, teaching and business processes can continue in the event of a disaster.

Business services support. Continue to expand software to automate key business services, creating efficiencies and improvements.

Replace and enhance technology infrastructure at schools and central office

\$15.3 million

Replace aging PCs, projectors, sound systems and infrastructure. Continue replacement of classroom instructional equipment to support student engagement and achievement.

Increase network capacity/bandwidth. Expand fiber network to enable students and teachers to have better access to learning resources available on the Internet and to learning tools available on the central computers.

Academics

\$94.6 million

Seattle Public Schools is creating a system where every student receives an excellent education and every school is a high-quality school. Academic projects support major initiatives, improve the way student services are delivered and provide other learning supports. Classrooms across the district are transforming the way they work to help ensure that all students can meet or exceed grade-level expectations and graduate from high school prepared for college, careers and life.

Student assessment system

\$4.3 million

Expand student assessment systems to provide real-time information on student progress, supporting teachers in differentiating instruction for each student to facilitate increases in academic achievement.

Districtwide

Special Education improvements

\$4.8 million

Make building modifications to support better delivery of special education services closer to home.

Districtwide

CORE 24 graduation requirements

\$3.5 million

Add science and computer labs at high schools as needed to support new state graduation CORE 24 requirements.

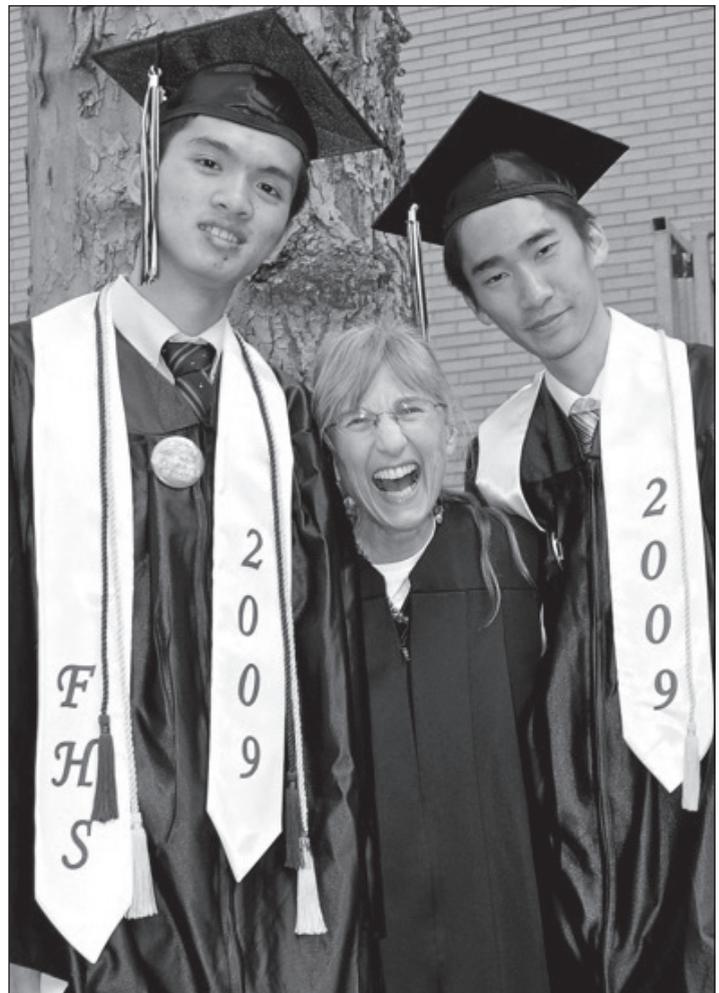
High schools

Early Learning classrooms

\$3.2 million

Create Early Learning classrooms at four Title 1 schools, where more than 40 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch.

Dearborn Park, Bailey Gatzert, Kimball, John Muir



Academics

\$94.6 million – *continued*

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School

\$1.6 million

Support creation of a rigorous option high school, available to students throughout the district, by expanding number of science classrooms and computer labs.

Cleveland

Meany/NOVA enhancements

\$5 million

Enhance and improve Meany building to support academic needs of NOVA alternative high school program, including updating classrooms, increasing number of science labs, improving arts spaces, and modernizing library and other spaces. A School Design Team process will allow the school community to participate in development of the final project list.

Capacity planning and management

\$48.1 million

Open five buildings to meet growth in enrollment, serve students closer to home and support new student assignment plan. Buildings are planned for opening between 2010 and 2012 and much of the planned work is necessary to bring them up to the current City of Seattle code requirements, which include life safety elements, plumbing, roofs and seismic work. Other work includes repairs, painting and interior finishes. Finally, the growth in student enrollment creates a need to purchase additional furniture and necessary technology hardware to facilitate learning and teaching wherever the additional student seats are added.

McDonald, Old Hay, Rainier View, Sand Point, Viewlands

Athletics: Fields, turf and lighting

\$19.2 million

Replace synthetic turf, resurface tracks and upgrade to energy-efficient lighting at athletic complexes.

Cleveland Field@Van Asselt, Franklin, Garfield, Memorial Stadium, Northwest Athletic Complex@Ingraham, Roosevelt, Salmon Bay@Monroe, Southeast Athletic Complex@Rainier Beach, Southwest Athletic Complex@Denny/Sealth, Whitman, and other emergency field repairs district wide.

Program placement

\$2.9 million

Changes to buildings and portables as needed to support changes in placement of programs around the district and acquisition of capital-eligible new program and curriculum materials.

Skills Center

\$2 million

Provide funds to begin development of a distributed model Skills Center, including program enhancements and building upgrades necessary to create advanced Career and Technical Education Programs at sites throughout the district.

Status of Current Levy Projects

Seattle Public Schools is currently implementing two capital levies. The six-year Buildings, Technology and Academics II (BTA II) levy, approved by voters in 2004, provided 615 upgrades and renovations at every school throughout the district. The majority of the projects have been completed, with the remaining projects scheduled to be finished by the time the levy funds are spent. The proposed BTA III capital levy described in this booklet will replace the expiring BTA II levy. For more information, visit bta.seattleschools.org.

Work funded by the Building Excellence III (BEX III) capital bond, approved by voters in 2007, is well underway. This six-year bond replaces or renovates six schools, and provides funds for infrastructure and technology improvements. Both levies continue Seattle Public Schools' long-range plan for renewing aging school buildings throughout the city, replacing or modernizing district buildings, infrastructure and technology. For more information visit bex.seattleschools.org.

Timing of Levy Requests

Under Seattle Public Schools' long-term levy plan, the district submits a capital levy or bond request every three years. The capital requests alternate between a major six-year capital request (such as Building Excellence approved in 1995, 2001 and 2007) and a smaller six-year capital levy (such as BTA III on the 2010 ballot, which replaces the expiring Buildings, Technology and Academics levies passed in 1998 and 2004).

Although by law voters can approve an operations levy for up to four years, Seattle Public Schools submits three-year operations levy requests to coincide with the capital requests. Combining levy requests on a predictable schedule allows tax rates to remain level and saves the cost of additional elections.

Operations Levy: Proposition 2

At Seattle Public Schools, our goal is to ensure that every student graduates from high school prepared for college, careers and life. The \$442.7 million Operations Levy funds important educational programs and services that are not fully funded by the state. Like most districts around the state, for many years SPS has relied on voter approval of levies to fund nearly one quarter of our annual operating budget. Although subject to the Board of Directors' discretion as part of the annual budget process, past operating levies supported:

- Teachers and instructional assistants who work with students every day to provide instruction that will lead to academic growth and success.
- Full-day kindergarten programs that are key to helping students be ready for first grade, so that they can stay on track with learning.
- A six-period day at high schools (the state currently funds five periods) so that students can pursue more classes that prepare them to graduate from high school ready for college, careers and life.
- Bilingual and special education services to support the diverse needs of our students.
- Textbooks and classroom supplies that support learning and teaching.
- Bus transportation, security and other operations necessary to meet student needs.
- Student activities, such as athletics, drama and music that are outside the regular school day.



FACT: The money to operate Seattle Public Schools comes from multiple sources. The largest share (53.5 percent) is provided by the state, and the second largest share by the Operations Levy (23.5 percent).

2009-2010 Adopted Budget



Non-Capital Funding by Source

Local Taxes	\$124,786,592	23.5%
Local Non-Tax	\$26,826,220	5.0%
State General	\$225,250,851	42.4%
State Special	\$59,205,140	11.1%
Federal	\$88,696,181	16.7%
Other Agencies	\$7,091,819	1.3%
TOTAL	\$531,856,803	

Seattle Public Schools

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Voter registration

For information on how to register to vote, visit the King County Elections Web site at www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration or call 206-296-VOTE (206-296-8683). The deadline for new voter registration for the Feb. 9, 2010, election is Feb. 1, 2010. Voter registration changes, such as address, must be submitted by Jan. 11, 2010.

Senior and disabled citizen tax exemptions

If you have a total annual income of \$35,000 or less and are 61 years of age or older, or if you have a disability, you may qualify for exemption from all or part of this levy. More information is available at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/Exemptions.aspx>. To apply for an exemption, contact the King County Department of Assessments for application forms at 206-296-7300.

Vote by mail

The Feb. 9, 2010 election will be an all-mail election. Registered voters will receive their ballots through U.S. Mail in January. To vote, follow the directions on the ballot and return it by mail or by using a King County ballot drop box. All ballots must be postmarked by Feb. 9, 2010 to be counted.

Levy validation

Under state law, the levies will be approved if the measures receive a simple majority (50 percent plus 1) of "yes" votes of all voters who return valid ballots postmarked by Feb. 9, 2010.

This publication is intended to provide factual information related to the Seattle Public Schools Feb. 9, 2010, levy election. For more information, please visit www.seattleschools.org.

Photo on page 5 courtesy of
Franklin High School
All other photos © Susie Fitzhugh

**Feb. 9: School Levy Information**