

A Report to the Community

FALL 2009



Your Tax Dollars at Work



EVERY STUDENT ACHIEVING,
EVERYONE ACCOUNTABLE

Your Support Helps Students Succeed

Seattle Public Schools is committed to ensuring an excellent education for every student. We are dedicated to preparing each student to graduate from high school ready for college, career and life by setting high expectations, attracting and retaining excellent teachers, and by working to ensure that every school is an excellent school.

You play a key role in helping students succeed. For many years, Seattle voters have continued a tradition of support for Seattle students by approving renewal of levies and bond measures.

Through your yes votes in 2007, you renewed the Maintenance and Operations Levy (Operations Levy) that provides nearly 24 percent of the funding for educational programs and services to students. The Operations Levy supports day-to-day operations and student learning by paying for educational services including instruction, full-day kindergarten and other student services.

You also voted yes to reaffirm your commitment to capital projects, allowing Seattle Public Schools to continue renovations and improvements to the buildings where learning takes place.

Two capital project programs, Buildings, Technology and Academics (BTA) and Building Excellence (BEX), provide money to renew and replace aging buildings with safe, modern and efficient facilities. In addition, capital levy and bond funds are used for improvements in classrooms, technology, playgrounds and athletic fields.

As part of Seattle Public Schools strategic plan, *Excellence for All*, we are committed to being accountable for the funds provided by Seattle taxpayers. This report presents an overview of the benefits to students, teachers, and to learning and teaching that have come about from your continued approval of ballot measures to support education.

Thank you, Seattle.

You are making a difference and helping students succeed.



BUILDINGS, TECHNOLOGY AND ACADEMICS CAPITAL PROGRAM (2005-2010)

Seattle voters approved the six-year, \$178 million Buildings, Technology and Academics levy (BTA II) in 2004, which was a renewal of the 1998 BTA I Levy. BTA II has funded more than 600 much-needed small renovations and major maintenance projects in our school buildings, as well as technology and academic infrastructure improvements, helping to ensure that every school is an excellent school.

BUILDINGS

-  Replaced roofs and made seismic improvements at 24 schools, which increased safety for students and staff while protecting the building structure
-  Performed exterior renovations at 30 schools; replaced windows and/or doors to protect buildings and improve energy efficiency, saving money and reducing our carbon footprint
-  Upgraded life-safety systems (such as fire alarms), performed hazardous materials abatement and increased accessibility to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) at 31 schools
-  Replaced mechanical systems such as heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC) and water lines to improve air and water quality, and save energy at 40 schools
-  Improved interior finishes and equipment, such as floors, ceilings, shades, blinds and stage drapes to improve safety and increase control over light and heat at 38 schools
-  Updated playgrounds to provide accessible, safe play areas for students at 20 schools

Final BTA II Projects to be completed in summer 2010 and summer 2011

- Roofs: 4 schools**
- Exterior renovations: 12 schools**
- Life safety: 12 schools**
- Mechanical systems: 14 schools**
- Interior finishes: 12 schools**
- Playgrounds: 4 schools**

A complete list of BTA II projects by school and more information is available at

bta.seattleschools.org

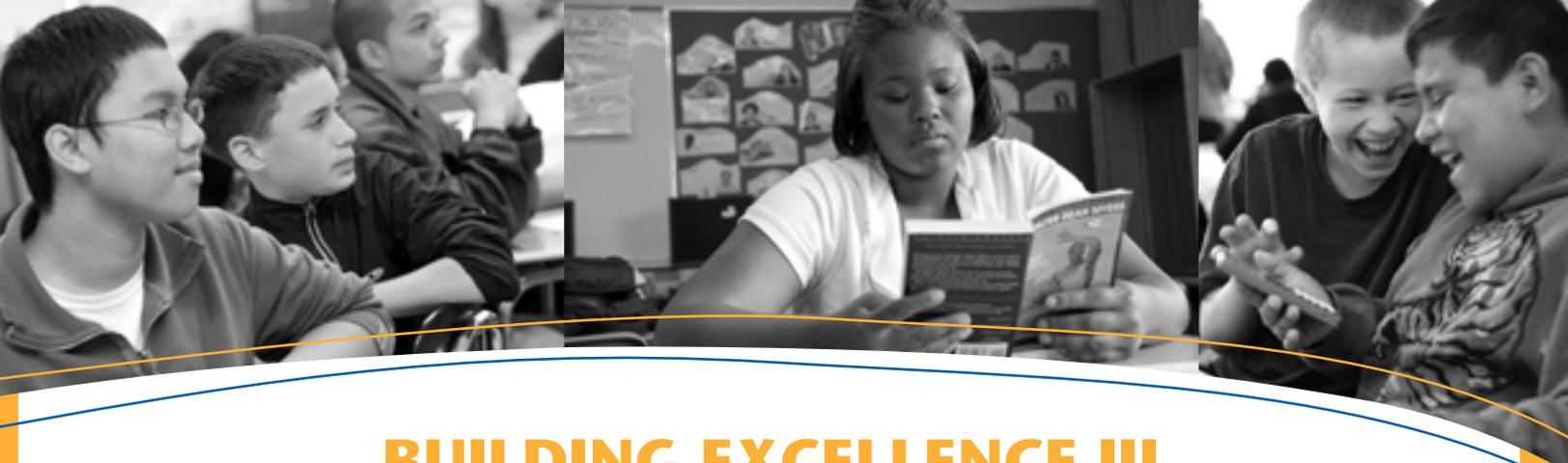


TECHNOLOGY

-  Supplied student computer workstations in all elementary schools to reduce the student-to-computer ratio and to increase student computer access
-  Provided presentation stations consisting of document cameras, video projectors, and student workstations in all schools. Secondary schools' projectors were ceiling-mounted. These tools help engage students and support learning and teaching
-  Installed amplified sound systems and portable sound systems in elementary schools to enhance student understanding during classroom sessions and improve communication outside of the classroom
-  Upgraded computer networks at all schools by expanding fiber optic network and replacing outdated network equipment and software to increase the ability of students and teachers to use technology as an educational tool
-  Improved library systems with new software and services to enhance learning and research opportunities for students. Increased library resources and online learning options to support curriculum at every school

ACADEMICS

-  Renovated libraries at 21 schools to provide more space and better conditions for research and studying
-  Upgraded art, music and auditorium facilities at 16 schools including stage flooring, seating, curtains and acoustics to support student participation in performing arts
-  Improved science facilities at 15 schools to support learning and teaching to district and state academic standards
-  Upgraded athletic facilities at 10 schools to enhance participation in sports
-  Completed high school project improvements to support each schools' academic plan. Projects were identified through the School Design Team process at Chief Sealth, Rainier Beach and Ingraham and included multiple projects to support academic excellence



BUILDING EXCELLENCE III CAPITAL PROGRAM (2007-2012)

Seattle voters approved the six-year, \$490 million Building Excellence III (BEX III) Capital Bond in 2007. BEX III funds provide major renovations or new construction for seven schools, enhancing our efforts to make every school a high performing school. BEX III also funds infrastructure and technology projects.

Chief Sealth High School renovated school opens for classes in Fall 2010

Denny International Middle School new school opens in Winter 2011

Hamilton International Middle School renovated school opens for classes in Fall 2010

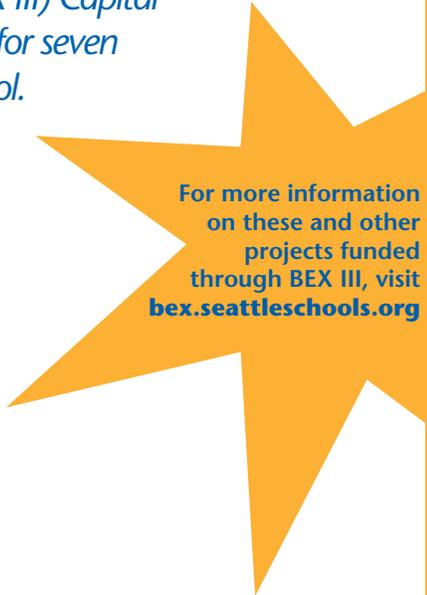
Ingraham High School renovation/expansion completion date to be determined

Nathan Hale High School renovations to be completed Spring 2011

Rainier Beach High School* renovated facilities opened Fall 2008

South Shore School new school opened for classes Fall 2009

*This project also funded by BTA



For more information on these and other projects funded through BEX III, visit bex.seattleschools.org

INFRASTRUCTURE

Improvements to enhance environmental health and safety are included in BEX III. This includes waterline replacements, improvements to indoor air quality, replacement of fire and life safety systems, and seismic upgrades.

TECHNOLOGY

Twenty technology projects are funded through BEX III, an investment that supports learning and teaching as well as effective business practices. including replacing outdated classroom computers and teacher workstations, expanding a Web site to keep families informed of student progress, and improvements to business and academic systems.

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS LEVY

In 2007, Seattle voters renewed a three-year, \$397 million Maintenance and Operations Levy (Operations Levy). This levy accounts for 24 percent of the SPS annual budget and pays for educational services not fully funded by the State of Washington such as:

- ★ Teachers and instructional assistants
- ★ Full-day kindergarten
- ★ Bilingual and special education services
- ★ Classroom supplies
- ★ Student transportation
- ★ Security and maintenance
- ★ Other student activities such as athletics, drama and music instruction



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