

Seattle Public Schools

LEVIES INFORMATION

WINTER 2013



Seattle residents have an opportunity to renew funding for two levies — Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2013

At Seattle Public Schools, we are committed to success for all students so that they can graduate from high school prepared for college, careers and life. These two levies play an important role in our ability to meet our goals.

Both levy measures will replace expiring levies that voters previously approved. They are part of Seattle Public Schools' long-term levy plan and will support public education for Seattle's students.

Operations Levy \$551.9 million (Proposition 1)

The Operations Levy represents 26 percent of Seattle Public Schools' annual general fund operating budget and is the second largest source of operations funding after that provided by the State of Washington. The levy supports educational programs not fully funded by the state.

The operations levy has traditionally paid for instruction, bilingual and special education services, textbooks and classroom supplies, transportation and security, and student activities, such as athletics and music.

This levy renews the expiring Operations Levy that voters approved in early 2010 and the Supplemental Operations Levy approved in fall 2010.

Capital Levy - Building Excellence IV (BEX IV) \$694.9 million (Proposition 2)

The Capital Levy supports the District's long-range plans to upgrade and renovate aging school facilities and address enrollment growth.

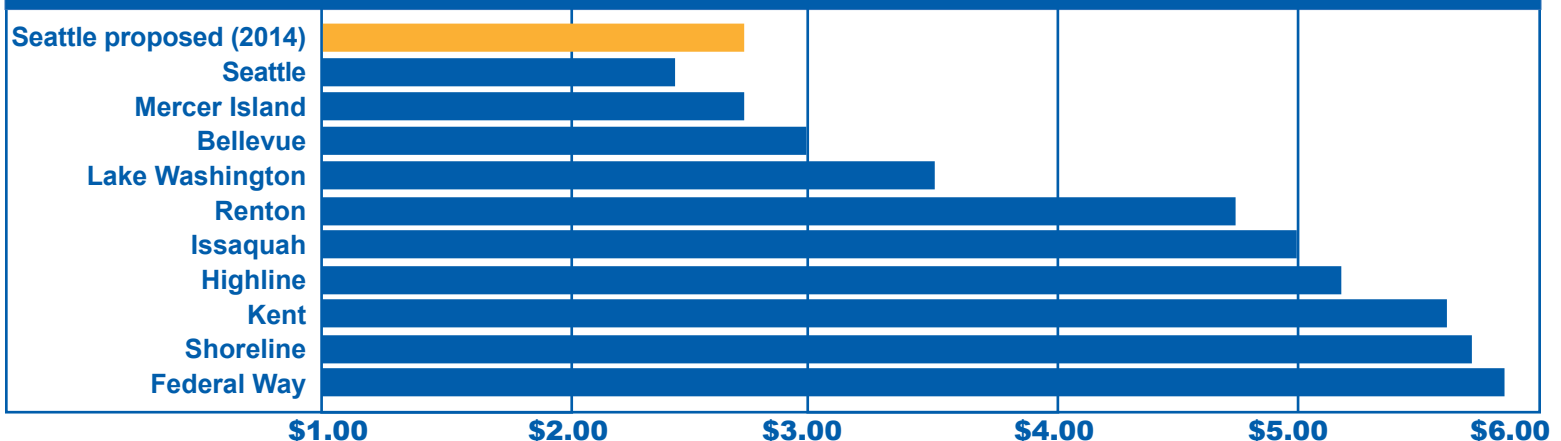
The proposition replaces an expiring capital levy and authorizes the levy of excess taxes to fund the Building Excellence Program for construction or renovation at 17 schools, earthquake safety improvements at 37 schools, integrated security camera system at 19 schools, projects for increased enrollment and major maintenance, and technology improvements and other projects throughout the District.

FACT: Seattle has one of the lowest levy rates in the region.



Funding our schools: How Seattle compares

2014 SPS education levy rate per \$1,000 assessed value versus 2012 levy rates of Puget Sound school districts

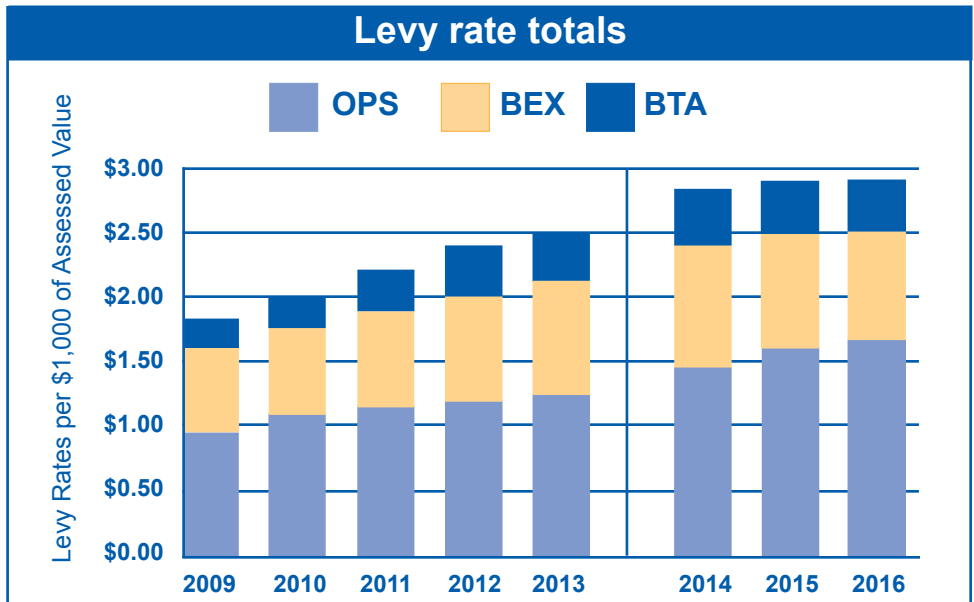


On a \$400,000 assessed home value, the total proposed levy rate increase would result in a \$135 annual tax increase in 2014 over 2013

FACT: The Operations Levy and Capital Levy both replace expiring levies.

It is estimated that a homeowner whose home has an assessed value of \$400,000 will pay, on average, approximately \$152 more per year — or a little less than \$13 more per month — in total school property taxes in 2014–2016 versus 2013 for all levies combined.

Some homeowners may qualify for a tax exemption (see back page).



Estimated SPS property taxes

Based upon \$400,000 home value

Type of levy	2013 (Current)	2014 (Proposed)	2015 (Proposed)	2016 (Proposed)
Operations	\$557	\$578	\$621	\$641
BEX III & IV	\$285	\$400	\$389	\$372
BTA III	\$157	\$156	\$151	\$145
Total	\$999	\$1,134	\$1,161	\$1,158
<i>Annual</i> change from current	N/A	\$135	\$162	\$159
<i>Monthly</i> change from current	N/A	\$11	\$14	\$13

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 the BEX IV levy on the 2013 ballot, which replaces the expiring BEX III bond passed in 2007) and a smaller six-year capital levy (such as Buildings, Technology and Academics approved in 1998, 2004 and 2010).

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.

Why a levy for capital improvement instead of a bond?

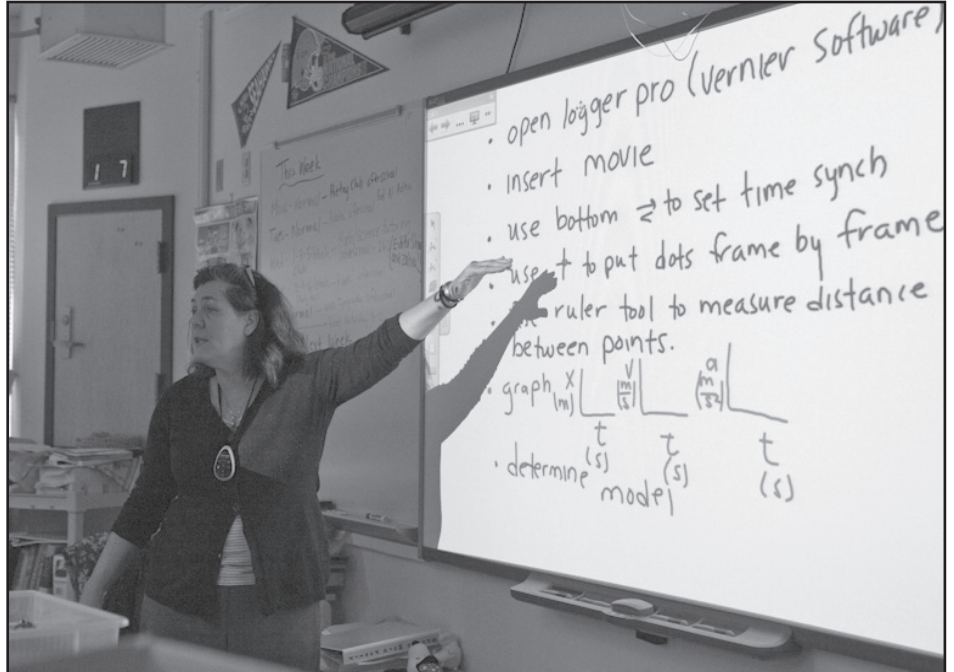
A capital levy is collected over a six-year period in even increments of 1/6th cash each year.

This is a less costly method of paying for capital construction projects because no interest payment to investors is required.

Operations Levy: Proposition 1

At Seattle Public Schools, our goal is to ensure that every student graduates from high school prepared for college, careers and life. The \$551.9 million Operations Levy renewal will fund important educational programs and services that are not fully funded by the state. 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.
- 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 (52 percent) is provided by the state, and the second largest share comes from the Operations Levy (26 percent).

2012-13 Operating Budget



Operating resources by source

Operations Levy	\$154.0 M	26.0%
State General	\$305.7 M	51.7%
Federal	\$73.5 M	12.4%
Other Revenue	\$31.1 M	5.3%
Other Resources	\$27.2 M	4.6%
Total	\$591.4 M	100%

Capital Levy: Proposition 2

The six-year \$694.9 million, Building Excellence IV (BEX IV) Capital Levy replaces the expiring BEX III bond approved by Seattle voters in 2007. Between 1998 and 2012, 37 buildings have been modernized, remodeled, renovated or replaced with funding from BEX I, BEX II and BEX III. These projects were completed based on best practices in academics, construction and the environment.

This Capital Levy continues the work to replace or modernize district buildings, infrastructure and technology. It will allow the district to address earthquake and safety issues, capacity needs, building condition and infrastructure improvements, and major preventive maintenance needs throughout the school district.

BEX IV projects were chosen based on four criteria: 1) safety and security, 2) capacity needs, 3) building condition, and 4) maximizing flexibility for programs and services.

BUILDING EXCELLENCE IV BUILDING PROJECTS FOR 17 SCHOOLS

New schools and replacement schools

Construction of new schools or replacement schools involves demolition of existing facilities if required; construction of new buildings consisting of core facilities and teaching areas; and construction of site work.

Core spaces include administration offices, cafeteria facilities, gym facilities, teacher's lounge, health clinic, day care and library; and teaching areas include classrooms, teacher workroom/break

areas, and science and computer labs.

Building construction would include finishing of interior spaces, installation of furniture, fixtures and equipment, and complete mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems as well as fire sprinkler, fire alarm and communications systems.

Site work would include construction of access roads, sidewalks, parking areas, landscaping and playfields.

Re-purposing and modernizing of existing facilities

Re-purposing and modernizing existing facilities involves abatement and demolition of site structures such as portables if no longer necessary for the new program; abatement and interior demolition of the existing buildings as necessary to configure spaces to the proposed use; and rehabilitation of the site to provide necessary parking and playground space.

Renovation of the existing buildings would involve rehabilitation of the building envelope including roof replacement, painting and rehab of exterior walls, and installation of energy efficient windows.

Structural work would include earthquake retrofitting including replacement of the roof diaphragm, tying the roof structure to the supporting walls and installing lateral bracing systems. Interior finish work would include replacement of floor and ceiling finishes,

and complete repainting of interior. Accessibility considerations such as wheelchair access paths, restroom sizes and accessible fixtures would be addressed.

The mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems would be completely renovated or replaced as necessary, and technology systems such as wi-fi and data networks would be installed.

Also included would be installation of fire alarm and fire sprinkler systems. Lastly, furniture, fixtures and equipment would be installed.

Site work includes renovation of existing playing fields, installation of playground equipment and site furnishings, restriping and refinishing of parking lots, and installation of new building signage and energy-efficient lighting.

BUILDING EXCELLENCE IV BUILDING PROJECTS FOR 17 SCHOOLS - continued

Arbor Heights Elementary: Replacement of existing school on same site. (\$42.6M)

Built in 1949 with additions in 1950, 1953 and 1958, Arbor Heights is in poor repair with many major systems and structural challenges. The proposed project would replace the deteriorating buildings with a new school that supports best learning practices for elementary schools. Additional permanent capacity will support projected enrollment growth in West Seattle.

Bagley Elementary: Modernize and add classroom and core facilities. (\$18.6M).

This project would modernize the building opened in 1930 under the assumption that it will be designated as a landmark. The project includes constructing a 150 seat-permanent addition to address current and projected elementary enrollment growth in north Seattle.

Fairmount Park Elementary: Modernize and add classroom/core facilities. (\$3.1M)

Opened in 1964 and closed in 2007, the project would modernize the existing building and construct an addition of 200 permanent seats. This project will address current and projected elementary enrollment growth in West Seattle.

Jane Addams Building: Re-purpose as a middle school. (\$7.3M)

This project will accommodate current and projected middle school growth in northeast Seattle and alleviate overcrowding at Eckstein Middle School. Built as a junior high, Jane Addams opened in 1949. Currently it houses the Jane Addams K-8 option school that will be relocated.

Jane Addams K-8@Pinehurst: New replacement. (\$39.2M)

This project would replace the 1950s building with a new building to accommodate and meet the needs of the K-8 program currently at Jane Addams.

Lincoln building: Modernize building and repurpose as a comprehensive high school. (\$19.2M)

Opened in 1907, the Lincoln building has been serving as an interim site since 1997. The central wing was modernized in the late 1990s. The project at Lincoln would modernize other sections of the building in preparation for reopening as a comprehensive high school. This project will address projected high school enrollment growth in central and north Seattle.

Loyal Heights Elementary: Modernize and add classroom/core facilities. (\$37.3M)

Opened in 1932, this building would be modernized under the assumption that it will be designated as a landmark. A permanent addition will be constructed to provide 200-350 seats to address current and projected elementary enrollment growth in northwest Seattle.

Meany Middle School: Modernize and re-purpose. (\$14.5M)

The existing building would be modernized. It was originally built as a junior high school and would be reopened as a comprehensive middle school. This project will address current and projected middle school enrollment growth in central Seattle and reduce overcrowding at Washington Middle School.

Northeast Elementary: New construction with a capacity of 500-650 seats. (\$42.8M).

This project would construct a new elementary on the existing Thornton Creek (Decatur) site or another appropriate location. This project will address the current and projected elementary enrollment growth and reduce overcrowding in elementary schools in the area.

Nova Alternative High School @Mann: Modernize and add classroom/core facilities. (\$8M)

The Mann Building opened in 1903. It would serve as a permanent home for the Nova program.

Olympic Hills Elementary: Replacement of existing school on same site. (\$41.9M)

The existing permanent building, which opened in 1954, and portable facilities will be replaced with a new building with permanent capacity of 500-650 students. The project will address current and projected elementary enrollment growth in northeast Seattle, and reduce overcrowding at elementary schools in the area.

Queen Anne Elementary: Add classroom/core facilities (\$16.4M).

This building originally opened in 1905 and was recently modernized and reopened in 2011. The proposed project will add 200 seats of permanent capacity and a gymnasium to the site's existing facilities. The project will address current and projected elementary growth in Queen Anne and downtown Seattle, and reduce overcrowding at elementary schools in the area.

BUILDING EXCELLENCE IV BUILDING PROJECTS FOR 17 SCHOOLS - continued

Schmitz Park Elementary@ Genesee Hill

with a re-purposing of the Schmitz Park building for elementary seats: Construct a new building on the Genesee Hill site. (\$38.9M)

The closed Genesee Hill building, built in 1948, would be replaced with a newly constructed building, which will house the present Schmitz Park school community. The existing Schmitz Park building would then be re-purposed to address current and projected elementary enrollment growth in West Seattle.

Wilson Pacific Elementary (\$42.8M) and Wilson Pacific Middle School (\$68.6M): New construction.

This project would replace the current facility, built in 1953, and co-locate on the existing Wilson-Pacific campus a newly constructed elementary school with a range of 500-650 seats and a newly constructed 1,000-seat middle school. This project addresses current and projected elementary and middle school enrollment growth in north Seattle, reduces overcrowding in elementary schools in the area, and alleviates

overcrowding at Whitman, Hamilton and Eckstein middle schools. The current north end elementary Advanced Placement Program at Lincoln High School would be assigned to the new elementary school on the Wilson Pacific campus and move there upon completion of construction.

Wing Luke Elementary: Replacement of the existing school on same site. (\$43.2M)

Opened in 1971, Wing Luke has several major systems and structural challenges. The proposed project would replace the deteriorating buildings with a new school that supports best learning practices for elementary schools. Additional permanent capacity will support projected enrollment growth in southeast Seattle.

World School @T.T. Minor: Re-purpose and modernize the T.T. Minor facility to house the World School program. (\$4.0M)

This project would provide a permanent home for the World School program by re-purposing and modernizing the original 1940 building and the addition completed in 1960.

BUILDING EXCELLENCE IV - OTHER PROJECTS

Earthquake safety improvements: In addition to all new, replaced, modernized and repurposed buildings, 37 schools will receive earthquake upgrades. Adams Elementary, Jane Addams K-8, Aki Kurose Middle School, Alki Elementary, Beacon Hill International, Blaine K-8, Broadview-Thomson K-8, Dearborn Park Elementary, Eckstein Middle, Franklin High, Gatewood Elementary, Graham Hill Elementary, Ingraham High, Kimball Elementary, Lafayette Elementary, Laurelhurst Elementary, Leschi Elementary, Lowell Elementary, Maple Elementary, McClure Middle, McGilvra Elementary, Mercer Middle, Montlake Elementary, Muir Elementary, North Beach Elementary, Northgate Elementary, Orca K-8@Whitworth, Rainier Beach High, Rogers Elementary, Roxhill Elementary, Sacajawea Elementary, Sand Point Elementary, Thornton Creek Elementary@Decatur, View Ridge Elementary, Washington Middle, Wedgwood Elementary, Whitman Middle.

Integrated security camera system at 19 schools (Schools TBD)

Lunchroom additions at two schools: Green Lake Elementary and McGilvra Elementary

New science labs at four schools: Aki Kurose Middle School, Eckstein Middle School, McClure Middle School, Mercer Middle School

Roofing work at five schools: Gatewood Elementary, Laurelhurst Elementary, Eckstein Middle School, Franklin High School, Whitman Middle School.

Field and/or track upgrades at five schools: Eckstein Middle School, Ballard High School (track only), Cleveland High School, View Ridge Elementary (field only), Thornton Creek Elementary@Decatur (field only)

Planning for a downtown school

BUILDING EXCELLENCE IV TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS

Classroom technology. Provide classroom support through new learning management systems and multi-tiered student support systems, professional development for teachers, replace and/or upgrade student devices, improve teacher and parent portals, and offer technology classroom innovation grants.

Academic/business operations. Improve business processes to create additional efficiencies, make system

adjustments for new legal requirements, enhanced reporting for classrooms and operations, automate additional processes.

Infrastructure. Install wireless in all schools, renovate aged network, build out disaster recovery, upgrade servers and hardware.

All technology (\$53.8M)

Seattle Public Schools: District Highlights

Student Enrollment 2012-13	
Elementary (K-5)	26,085
Middle School (6-8)	10,135
High School	13,644
Total	49,864

Students by Ethnicity	
African American/Black	17.7%
American Indian	1.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander	18.1%
White	44.0%
Hispanic/Latino	12.6%
Multiracial	6.6%

Student Services
40.1 percent qualify for free/reduced price meals
12.3 percent are enrolled in Special Education
12.2 percent are eligible for bilingual services



Student Achievement: Seattle Public Schools is committed to ensuring that all students graduate prepared for college, career and life after high school.

- SPS students exceeded the average scores on the state exams in every tested subject in Grades 3-8, falling behind only in the high school reading and writing proficiency exams in Grade 10 and the new biology end-of-course exam.
- The percentage of students who meet or exceed state standards on the state tests is an important measure of instructional quality. Fourth-graders meeting or exceeding standards on the state math test rose to 67 percent and eighth-graders meeting or exceeding standards for science rose to 75 percent, continuing a five-year trend.
- The number of students graduating from high school in four years has increased from 62 percent in 2007-08 to 74 percent in 2011-12.
- More than 65 percent of graduates took a college level course while in high school.

Status of current levy projects

Work funded by the expiring Building Excellence III (BEX III) capital bond, approved by voters in 2007, is complete, with all projects on time and within budget.

This six-year bond replaced or renovated seven schools. **Rainier Beach** modernization was completed in 2008. The new **South Shore PreK-8 School** opened in 2009. Renovations of **Chief Sealth International High School** and **Hamilton International Middle School** were completed in 2010. The new **Denny International Middle School** construction and renovation of **Nathan Hale High School** were completed in 2011. The classroom addition at **Ingraham High School** was completed in 2012. BEX III also provided much needed infrastructure improvements and 20 technology projects.

Seattle Public Schools is currently implementing the

six-year Buildings, Technology and Academics III (BTA III) Capital Levy, approved by voters in 2010. Projects funded by BTA III include renovations needed to open schools to meet growth in enrollment, to support the new student assignment plan and to serve students closer to home.

Other projects include major preventive maintenance; roof replacement; earthquake safety work; life safety upgrades; accessibility (ADA) upgrades; improvements to heating, ventilation and cooling systems; electrical upgrades; window upgrades; student nutritional services equipment; communications/security systems; investments in technology; and improvements that enhance academics such as improvements to support special education, early learning classrooms and program placement.

Seattle Public Schools

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February 12: School Levy Information

Voter Registration

For information on how to register to vote, visit the King County Elections website at www.kingcounty.gov/elections/registration.aspx or call 206-296-8683. The deadline for mail or online new registrations and voter registration changes, such as an address change, must be submitted by Jan. 14, 2013, to qualify for voting on the Feb. 12 election. In-person new voter registrations may be made until Feb. 4, 2013, to vote in the Feb. election.

If you have questions about your voter registration or to request a ballot or a replacement ballot, contact the King County Elections Office at elections@kingcounty.gov.

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://1.usa.gov/U5hatu>.

To apply for an exemption, contact the King County Department of Assessments for application forms at (206) 296-3920, or download application forms on the website shown above.

Vote by mail

The Feb. 12, 2013, election will be an all-mail election. Registered voters will receive their ballots through the 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. 12, 2013 to be counted.

Levy validations

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. 12, 2013.

This publication is intended to provide factual information related to the Seattle Public Schools Feb. 12, 2013, levy election. For more information, please visit www.seattleschools.org.