



Selah School District's

# Education Report

An education update for the Selah community

316 West Naches Avenue, 98942; 509-698-8006

January 2019

## Selah School District Enrichment Levy

On February 12, voters will be asked to **RENEW** the current Levy to Maintain Existing Programs



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As the District focuses on having a quality school system, Levy funds provide students with learning programs and opportunities.

### Partnering Together: A Century of Cultivation

For over a century the Selah School District has valued the support of its community. With the backing of patrons, the District has cultivated a culture of life-long learning. Through the passage of Facilities Bonds to construct new buildings, and the approval of levies that support student learning, the District provides a quality educational experience, which transforms today's learners into tomorrow's leaders.



Now, again, the District is turning to the Selah community to "renew" its commitment to students as the District places a two-year Enrichment Levy request on the February 12, 2019, election ballot. This Enrichment Levy is **NOT** a new tax, but a replacement of the M & O Levy expiring in 2019. Levy dollars directly impact students and provide programs with high level learning opportunities.

As we thank the Selah community for its support, this *Election Ed Report* focuses on February's Levy request. The information provided highlights the District's proposal. If you have questions, please contact 698-8001.

### Levy Quick Facts

- An **Enrichment Levy** request.
- This is **NOT** a new tax.
- A **REPLACEMENT** of the M & O Levy expiring in 2019.
- This is a **two-year** Levy proposal.
- Proposed collection rate is **\$1.50 per \$1,000** of assessed value.
- The proposed Levy amount is a **DECREASE** of the current rate.
- If approved, the District receives **Levy Equalization funding** which is an **almost dollar for dollar** match to funds generated through Levy collection rates.
- Helps fund what the **State does not**.

# What is the Enrichment Levy...

## The Difference Between a Levy and Bond?

*Levies are for Learning, Bonds are for Buildings*

The District is often asked this question. The difference between a school levy and a facilities bond is:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Levy =</b></li><li>• Learning Support</li><li>• Activities and Athletics</li><li>• Technology</li><li>• Safety &amp; Security Support</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Bond =</b></li><li>• Building and Remodeling</li><li>• New Construction</li><li>• A super majority to pass</li></ul> |
|--|---|

The Bond passed in April 2018 was for restructuring John Campbell Primary School. Funds from the **Enrichment Levy** are used for **student programs** and **learning**.

*On February 12, 2019, the District is running a Levy.*



*Levy funds directly impact Selah students and provide them with educational opportunities to help them prepare for college and career opportunities.*

## What is the Enrichment Levy?

**LEVY** stands for **LEARNING** and the staffing and materials which contribute to quality educational opportunities for students. Even with a new name, the Enrichment Levy is still for learning and a renewal of the tax that is currently being collected to support programs. The Enrichment Levy replaces what was previously known as the Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Levy. The current M & O Levy expires in 2019. With the changes to the state's educational funding structure, the name of the levy used by public school districts to generate supplemental resources was changed to **Enrichment Levy**. Enrichment Levy dollars help fund what the state does not fund or does not fully fund. In Selah, total levy funds which include the use of Levy Equalization dollars, provide approximately 12% of the of the District's operating budget.

## What is Levy Equalization Funding?

Levy Equalization is additional funding the State provides property poor districts (areas with a lower tax base) when passing levies. **For Selah, Levy Equalization Funding is almost a dollar for dollar match when passing a levy.** The District is projected to receive approximately \$3 million in local levy funds and about the same in Levy Equalization funds **IF** the levy is passed by voters. Together, the funds make up approximately 12% of the District's \$48 million budget.

## Why Does the District Need Levy Funding?

**Funds generated by the levy impact student learning**, such as for instructional materials, additional teachers, programs for advanced students, technology support, nursing support, campus safety and security support, and sports and extra-curricular activities to name a few items. Programs supported by levy dollars help fund areas the state does not fully fund. These are: **Student Learning Support**, **Technology**, and **Athletics and Activities**.

### The McCleary Decision and Levy Funding

**W**ith the changes in how schools are funded in Washington State as a result of the McCleary Decision, the new funding formula has created a gap between what the State funds and what students need to succeed. As with other school districts, voter-approved levies help bridge that funding gap. Although the Legislature allocated more money into education this past legislative session, the net increase in operational funding received is not sufficient to cover what was lost in local levy funds. **The loss in local levy funding for the Selah School District is approximately \$3.2 million** over the two-year period representing the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years. Even though during last year's Legislative session the State capped the local amount school districts can collect in levy tax rates, the funding to be generated is still needed to help support programs essential to student learning.



*Levy funds provide students with opportunities to help them acquire the skills to be life-long learners.*

# A Look at Levy Collection Rates and Funding...

## Explaining the Levy Collection Rate

As discussed last April, with the revised educational funding structure derived from last year's legislative session, Selah's levy rate would be reduced. That is what is happening with the District's February Enrichment Levy proposal. In looking at Selah's proposal, the collection rate is being **REDUCED** from \$3.53 per \$1,000 to \$1.50 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation.

### Proposed Levy Collection Rates

2020 at \$1.50/\$1,000—**\$3,097,205**

2021 at \$1.50/\$1,000—**\$3,498,869**



### Levy Equalization Funding

IF the levy passes, it is projected that the District will receive an **additional \$3.1 million per year** in Levy Equalization funding to help support programs not adequately funded by the state. As explained on the previous page, Levy Equalization is an additional funding source the State provides property poor districts when passing levies. In Selah, Levy Equalization funding is almost a dollar for dollar match.

**The District is projected to receive approximately \$3 million in local levy funds and about the same amount in Levy Equalization dollars.**

Associate Superintendent, Chris Scacco, said if the Enrichment Levy is approved, the available equalization funds are an important funding source because of the almost dollar for dollar match. Scacco said when Levy Equalization funding is added to the funds generated from levy collection rates, the District has the available resources to help maintain educational opportunities which provide quality learning so students can gain the knowledge and skills to be college and career ready.

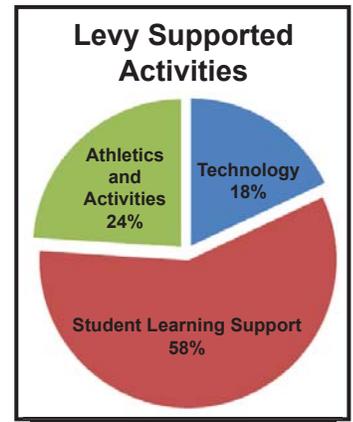
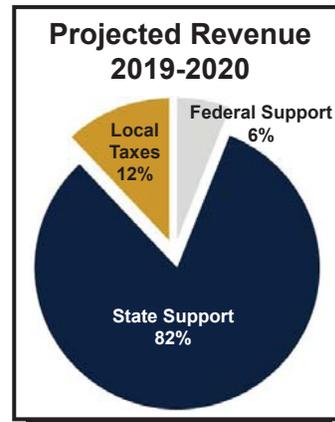


### 12% of the District's \$48 Million Budget

IF the District's February Enrichment Levy is approved, Levy Collection Rates combined with Levy Equalization funding will comprise 12% of the District's \$48 million budget. These funds directly impact students by helping support valuable programs and learning opportunities that the state does not fully fund.

If you have questions about levy funding and collection rates, please contact Associate Superintendent, **Chris Scacco** at **698-8005** or **chrisscacco@selahschools.org**.

## A Look at the Levy and Funding



## How Levy Funding is Utilized in Selah

### Student Learning Support 58%



*Levy funds help provide for educational support such as for student technology 1:1 devices.*

- Professional Development
- Instructional Materials
- Certified Staffing at Secondary Level
- ELL Support
- Nursing Support
- Classified Staffing for Supervision & Intervention
- Campus Safety & Security Support
- Drug and Alcohol Education
- Highly Capable Program Support

### Athletics and Activities 24%

- Academic Competitions
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Athletics  
(Coaches, travel, officials, etc.)

### Technology 18%

- Technology Devices
- Network Support
- Tech Support
- Student Records System
- Fiscal System Support
- Web-Site Support



*Levy dollars help support programs that provide valuable student opportunities.*

# The Enrichment Levy—Issues to Consider...

## Tax Exemptions for Senior Citizens or Individuals with a Disability

If you are a senior citizen or a disabled person, you may be exempt from part or all of property taxes. Anyone who is at least 61-years-old, OR permanently disabled, AND the owner/occupant of a single-family home, mobile home, or a unit in co-op housing AND has a combined disposable income of \$40,000 or less may qualify for a reduction or exemption of property taxes.

Please call 574-1100 or visit [www.yakimacounty.us](http://www.yakimacounty.us), for additional exemption details.

## Voter Registration

The last day for online voter registrations and changes is **January 14**. The deadline for new, in person only, Washington State voter registration is February 4. In person means you must apply at the county auditor's office. For more voter registration information, visit [www.yakimacounty.us](http://www.yakimacounty.us).

## The Ballot Timeline

Ballots for the February 12, 2019, Enrichment Levy election are scheduled to arrive in mailboxes on **Friday, January 25**. For a vote to be considered it must be postmarked by **Tuesday, February 12**.



*The purpose of Selah Schools is to ensure high levels of learning for students.*

## Who Do I Contact for More Information?

For more levy information, contact Selah Superintendent, **Shane Backlund** at 698-8002 or Associate Superintendent, **Chris Scacco** at 698-8005.

Additional levy information can also be found on the District's website at [www.selahschools.org](http://www.selahschools.org).

### Stay Connected with Selah Schools!

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

Please Follow us on Facebook

Follow the us on Twitter @THE\_VIKINGWAY

Follow the Superintendent on Twitter @SelahSup



## Levy Points to Remember...

- The District is placing an **Enrichment Levy** proposal on the **February 12, 2019**, ballot.
- This is a two-year **levy proposal**.
- Even with a new name, the Enrichment Levy is still **for learning and supports student programs**.
- This is a replacement levy request. It **RENEWS** the tax currently being collected.
- The current **levy expires** in December 2019.
- Enrichment Levy funds will help **maintain programs** through the **2020-2021 school year**.
- Levy dollars fund three main areas: **Student Learning Support, Technology and Athletics and Activities**.
- The collection rate is **\$1.50 per \$1,000** of assessed value.
- The proposed Enrichment Levy collection rate is a **REDUCTION** of the current rate being collected at \$3.53 per \$1,000.
- If approved, the District receives an **additional \$3.1 million** per year in Levy Equalization funding. Levy Equalization funding is an **almost dollar for dollar** match to funds generated through Levy Collection rates.
- Combined with Levy Equalization funding, **12% of the District's budget** derives from levy funds.
- Levy dollars **provide critical funding** for programs and opportunities the state does not fund or does not fully fund.
- Simple majority (50.01%) is **required** for the levy to pass.



Superintendent  
Shane Backlund

Board of Directors

Jeff Hartwick, President

Kelliann Ergeson, Vice-President

Kathy Lambert, Legislative Rep.

Jamie Morford, Board Member

Sarah Michael, Board Member

We Value Your Input.

The *Selah Education Report* is a publication for the patrons of the Selah School District. Please contact, Heidi Diener at 509-698-8007, or, [heididiener@selahschools.org](mailto:heididiener@selahschools.org), with inquiries.

Selah School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of any protected class as defined by law. This holds true for all district employment and opportunities. The Selah School District specifically does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age (40 or older), marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status, gender expression or identity, genetic information, non-job related sensory, mental or physical disability, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, or any other legally protected status, condition or characteristic, except where a bona fide qualification disqualifies an individual. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to:

Title IX compliance officer and Section 504 Coordinator, Betty Lopez, Special Services Director (509) 698-8016; ADA Coordinator and Affirmative Action Compliance Coordinator, Chad Quigley, Executive Director for Human Resources 509-698-8004.