

KSD

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL

WELCOME TO OUR
PARENTS, KAHLOTUS
COMMUNITY STAFF &
BOARD MEMBERS



Kahlottus School District

STRATEGIC PLAN

INPUT/PLANS/FEEDBACK

DISTRICT PRIORITIZATION PLAN *SCHOOL BOARD, SUPERINTENDENT (19-24)

PROFILE OF A GRADUATE *STAFF, PARENTS, STUDENTS, COMMUNITY (21-23)

PROFILE OF A SCHOOL *STAFF, PARENTS, STUDENTS, COMMUNITY (21-23)

DISTRICT-WIDE OVERVIEW *STAFF, SCHOOL BOARD, SUPERINTENDENT (23-25)



KAHLOTUS SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS 2025-2030

GOAL 1

INSTRUCTIONAL
IMPROVEMENT

GOAL 2

BUILDING THE WHOLE
CHILD

GOAL 3

BUILD SYSTEMS

GOAL 4

BE RESOURCE MINDED

GOAL 5

SCHOOL CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

VISION

The Kahlotus School District will see, value and create an environment every day that promotes:

Honesty
Optimism
Welcoming Learning

MISSION STATEMENT

The Kahlotus School District shall strive for academic excellence and growth in a nurturing environment that encourages students to reach their full potential as responsible individuals.

Dr. Andie Webb, Superintendent,
Mr. Mark Bitzer, Principal

KEY ITEMS FOR KSD

- Updating curriculum, strong teaching & learning strategies and practices
- Tiered academic and social-emotional programs with support systems
- District-wide and annual program plans/goals (SIP, CTE, MTSS, Tech)
- Solid program and committee work with staff, parents and community
- System updates to buildings: Phase 1
- Financially solid and resourceful
- Community/parent events, activities, engagement and communication



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Mr. Mark Bitzer, Principal

INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT

- Social studies, science and math curriculum adoptions
- Implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)
- Focused strategies and support in math, reading, science and personal/employable skills
- Use of data in teaching and learning
- Professional Learning Communities (PLC)
- Standards and frameworks
- Growth in state assessment scores



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STUDENT ELA MEASURES

Percentage of Students Meeting & Exceeding State Standards (Level 3 & 4) in ELA
5 Year Trend



Grades	Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standard in 2022-2023	Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standard in 2023-2024	Percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standard in 2024-2025	Gap between KSD and WA for Meeting or Exceeding State Standard	Percentage of students exceeding (Level 4) state standard in 2024-2025
Grades 3-10	28%	50%	63%	+12.9%	29%

*Does not include non-test years due to Covid (Spring 2020, Spring 2021), but includes Fall 2021

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STUDENT MATH MEASURES



Percentage of Students Meeting & Exceeding State Standards in Math
5 Year Trend



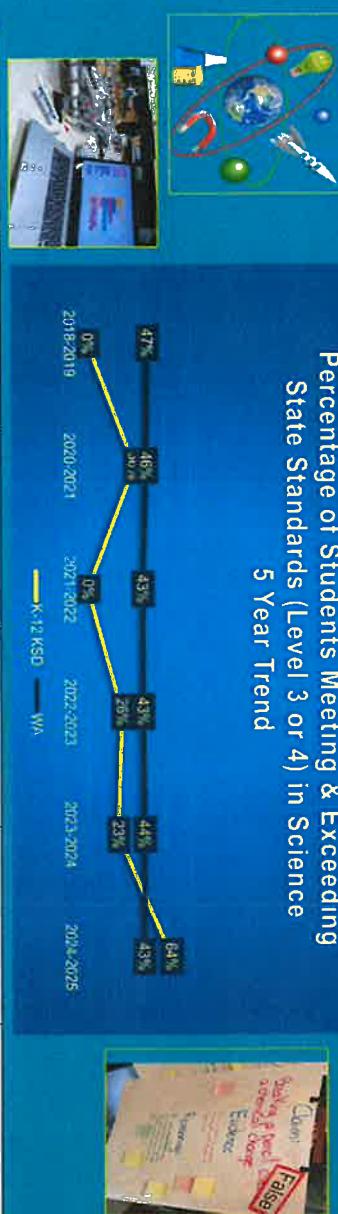
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Grades 3-10	21%	31%	54%	+14.4% Above State	20%

*Does not include non-test years due to Covid (Spring 2020, Spring 2021), but includes Fall 2021

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STUDENT SCIENCE MEASURES

Percentage of Students Meeting & Exceeding State Standards (Level 3 or 4) in Science
5 Year Trend



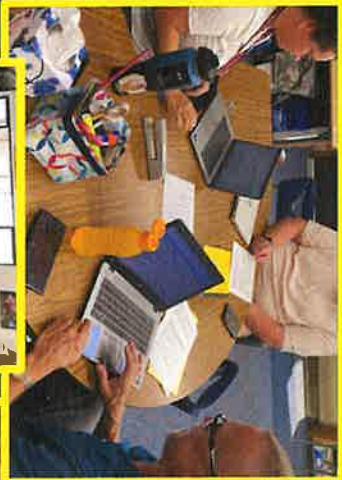
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Grades 5-11	27%	23%	64%	+20% Above State	21%

*Does not include non-test years due to Covid (Spring 2020, Spring 2021), but includes Fall 2021

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BUILDING THE WHOLE CHILD

- Adoption of Character Strong curriculum
- Implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for academics and behavior
- Dedicated staff and a committee to build a Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS)
 - Caring staff and school community
 - Implementing a middle school model with dedicated staff
 - Grades 7-12 building a high school and beyond plan
 - Career and technical education
 - Awards and recognition for students

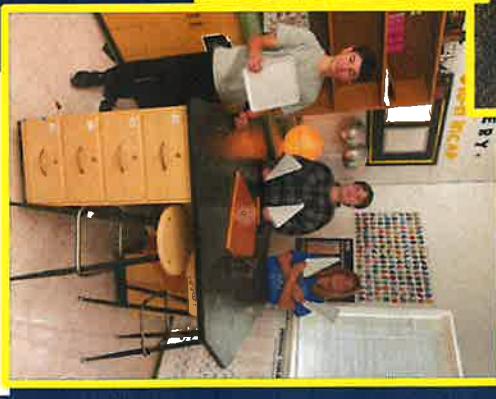


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BUILDING SYSTEMS

- Teaching and learning designed PreK-12
- Building renovation: Phase 1
- Building renovation: Phase 2
- Parent engagement, activities and events
- Activity and event planning and coordination
- Academic and behavior intervention
- Adding and supporting extracurricular and athletic activities (FFA, Hi-Cap, Arts)
- Food services
- Transportation



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BE RESOURCE MINDED

- Combine resources (human, financial, capital)
- Reduce expenditures where possible
- Access outside resources and funding
- Purchase wisely
- Access parents, families and the community
- Hire quality staff
- Work with quality, established vendors



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SCHOOL CONNECTED TO COMMUNITY

- Communication with parents and community
- Host events and activities that bring parents and the community into the school
- Build and maintain relationships with all stakeholders
- Students engage with the community for service, volunteering and fun
- Provide opportunities for parents, families and community members to volunteer and engage in student learning



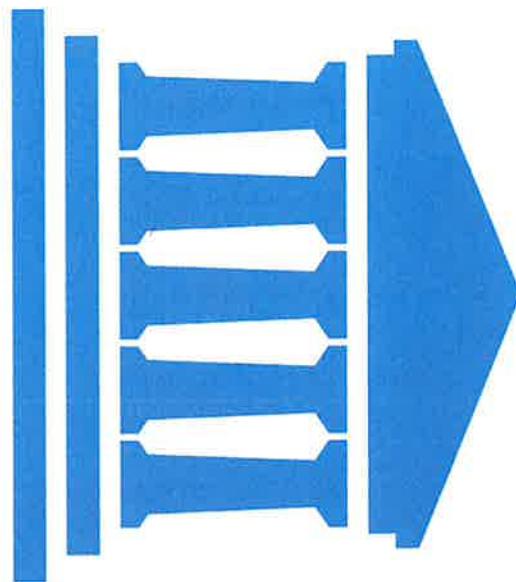
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CELEBRATIONS

- *THREE NEW TEACHERS
- *18 YEARS AVERAGE TEACHING EXPERIENCE
- *21 COMPASSIONATE, DEDICATED AND CARING STAFF
- *PASSED TRANSPORTATION INSPECTION- 100%
- *RECEIVED A \$15,500 REAP GRANT
- *RECEIVED A \$19,000 FARM TO SCHOOL GRANT
- *RECEIVED A \$6,000,000.00 REMODELING GRANT
- *RECEIVED \$40,000 CTE CASE GRANT
- *OUR STUDENTS ARE, ON AVERAGE, MEETING AND EXCEEDING THE STATE STANDARDS IN MATH, ELA AND SCIENCE
- **40 AMAZING STUDENTS & FAMILIES



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2026
Legislative
Session



Revenue Forecast

- Washington faces a projected \$4.3 billion operating-budget shortfall over the outlook period
- The shortfall stems from earlier budget decisions that weren't sustainable
- Maintenance-level cost pressures continue to rise
- Revenue forecasts have dropped significantly since session ended

Key Points On Revenue Forecast

Significant Budget Shortfall

- A **\$4.3B operating budget deficit** over the four-year outlook means the Legislature will face difficult choices as they build the 2026 supplemental budget.

Growing Cost Pressures

- Maintenance-level costs (inflation, caseloads, service utilization) continue to rise and must be covered before any new initiatives are funded.

Structural Imbalance Remains

- Past budgets relied on one-time funds and optimistic revenue assumptions so ongoing costs exceed projected revenues.

K-12 Stability Must Be Protected

- Districts rely on predictable, stable funding to sustain staffing and student supports.
- **Any solution to the shortfall should avoid creating new uncertainties for schools.**

Context for the 2026 Legislative Session

- 35 days until session begins
- Short session (60 days): Jan 12 – Mar 12
- Budget shortfall will lead to cuts and tax/revenue considerations
- Focus on healthcare, housing, federal impacts, public safety, budget
- WASA elevating Big Three; other partners aligning or overlapping
- All **2025 bills** still alive

More Context for the 2026 Legislative Session

- Governor Ferguson announced his proposed operating budget would be a “cuts-only”, no new revenue
- Another revenue forecast and caseload forecast in February before the Legislature adopts a 2026 supplemental
- All sectors and their advocates will be in self-preservation mode (“don’t cut us”)
- All House and half of senate members are up for re-election in 2026
- No member of the Legislature has lost a race over a tax vote since 2020
- Bill prefiling began on December 1st ([Prefiled bills](#))

Bill Watch: 2026 Legislative Session

- **Bills from 2025**

- Isolation and restraint ([HB 1795](#))
- Mental and behavioral health ([SHB 1634](#))
- Agency separation ([HB 1662](#))
- Repealing statutes/unfunded mandates ([SB 5235](#))

- **Potential new bills:**

- MSOC (Wellman and Gregerson)
- Min/Max Fund Balance (OSPI)
- Salary Allocation Model (Senate)
- School director compensation and training (OSPI)
- Levy equalization (Bergquist)
- Exemption for services tax (Berg)
- Expand opt-in/out decision from Gov to legislature

- General enrollment is lower than was assumed in the budget (around 8,000 fewer K-12 students statewide).
 - This means the state will save around \$80 million per year in the budget.
- However, OFM shared that increases in other areas offset this maintenance level savings. Approx. \$180 million in costs generated in a few key areas:
 - Higher than anticipated Special Education enrollment (See November trend line above February line on page 3 of the Caseload Forecast [ForecastNarratives.pdf](#))
 - Higher SpEd Safety net costs
 - Higher poverty percentages, which drive LAP funding.
- In addition, an estimated \$100 million more in costs from SEBB rate, IPD coming in higher than budgeted, and running start.

Taxes on

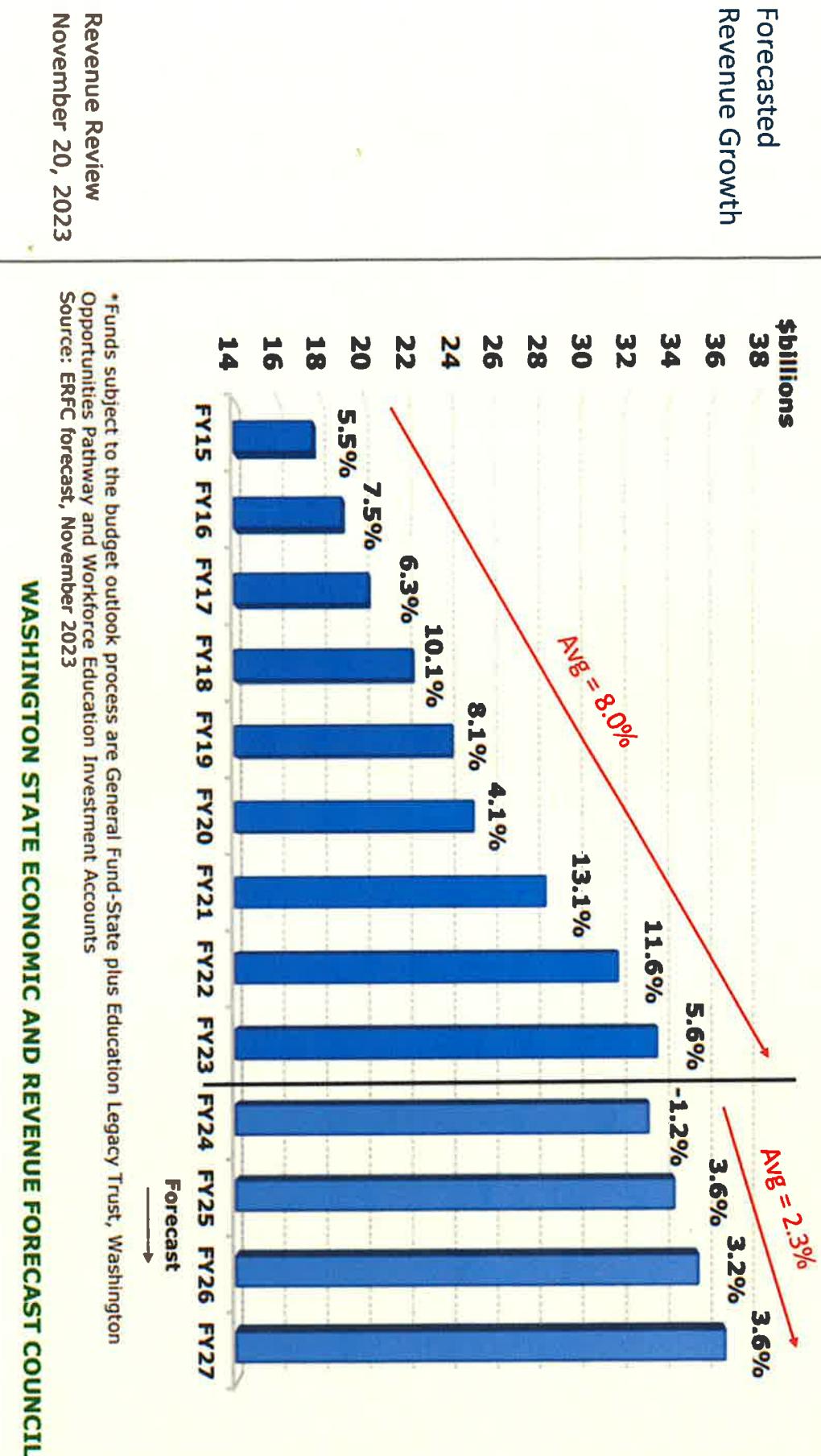
staffing services, PD, and IT

- Student learning remains our top priority. Dollars directed to districts should support teaching, learning, and student success.
- Districts need clarity on ESSB 5814. Implementation questions remain, especially regarding which services are taxable and how much funding may need to be returned to the state.
- Recent committee-day testimony underscores fiscal concerns. At the Finance Committee hearing, Ron Banner (Supt: Clover Park) spoke to significant unintended cost impacts on districts (available on TVW.org).
- Lawmakers did not intend to burden schools. Applying this new tax to public schools, during ongoing financial strain and declining enrollment, runs counter to legislative intent.
- We are committed to partnership. WASA and school leaders are working with legislators to ensure solutions that keep students first.

K-12 Education Funding Trends

Percentage of K-12 Funding in State Operating Budget

- 2015-17 biennium: 48%
- 2016 Supplemental, 2015-17 final: 47%
- 2017-19 biennium: 50%
- 2018 Supplemental, 2017-19 final: 51%
- 2019-21 biennium: 52% 
- 2020 Supplemental, 2019-21 final: 51%
- 2021-23 biennium: 48%
- 2022 Supplemental, 2021-23 final: 43%
- 2023-25 biennium: 44% (43.7%)



*Funds subject to the budget outlook process are General Fund-State plus Education Legacy Trust, Washington Opportunities Pathway and Workforce Education Investment Accounts

Revenue Review
November 20, 2023

WASHINGTON STATE ECONOMIC AND REVENUE FORECAST COUNCIL



Washington State School Directors' Association

WSSDA is a state agency comprised of the 1,477 locally elected school board directors who serve the state's 1.1 million students in their communities and statewide.

Putting Students First by Advocating for our Collective Priorities

- Provide for Ample, Equitable, and Stable Public Education
- Advance Special Education
- Build Safe & Healthy Schools
- Transport and Feed Students



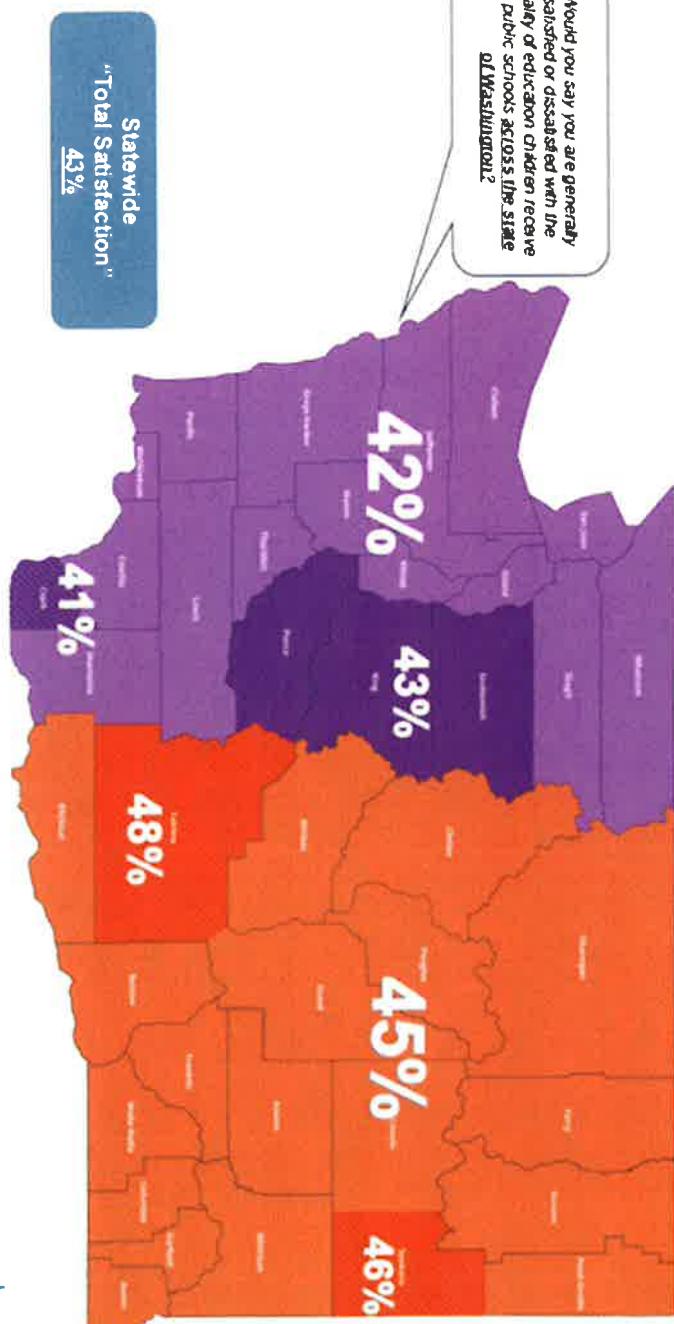
For more information, go to

wssda.org/priorities



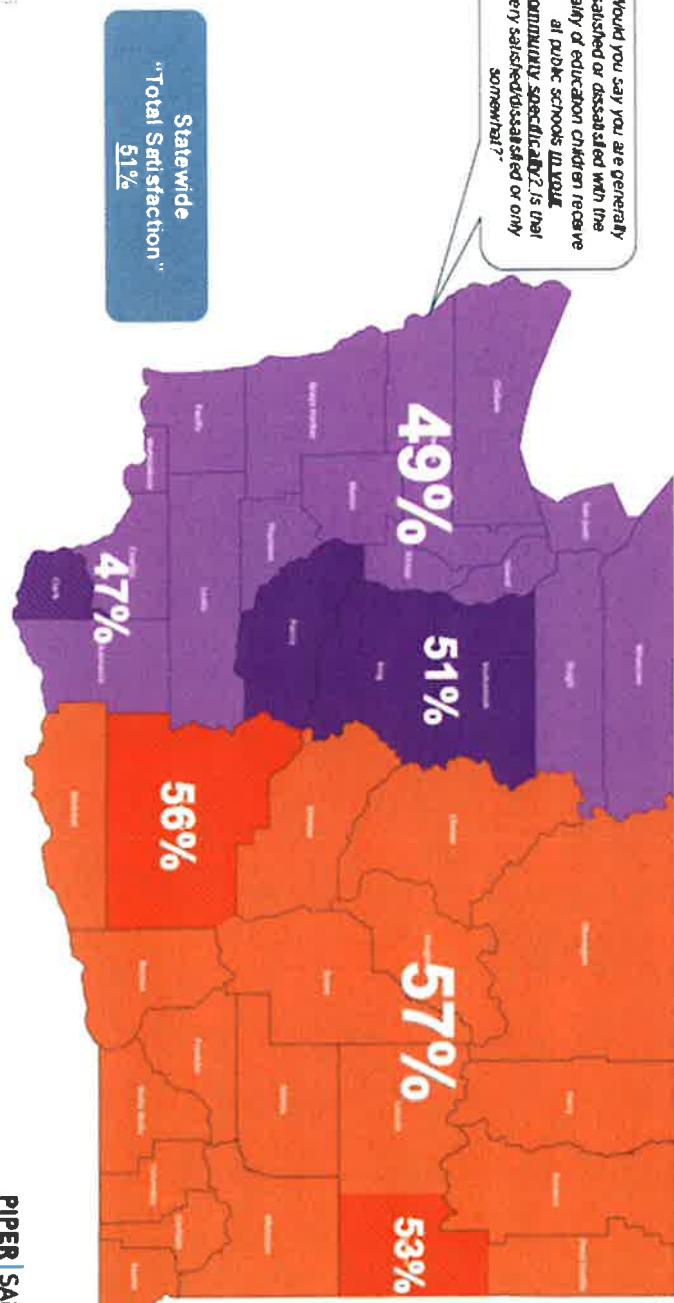
Voters uniformly rated the quality of school *across the state* with more dissatisfaction than satisfaction.

"Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education children receive at public schools **across the state of Washington?**"



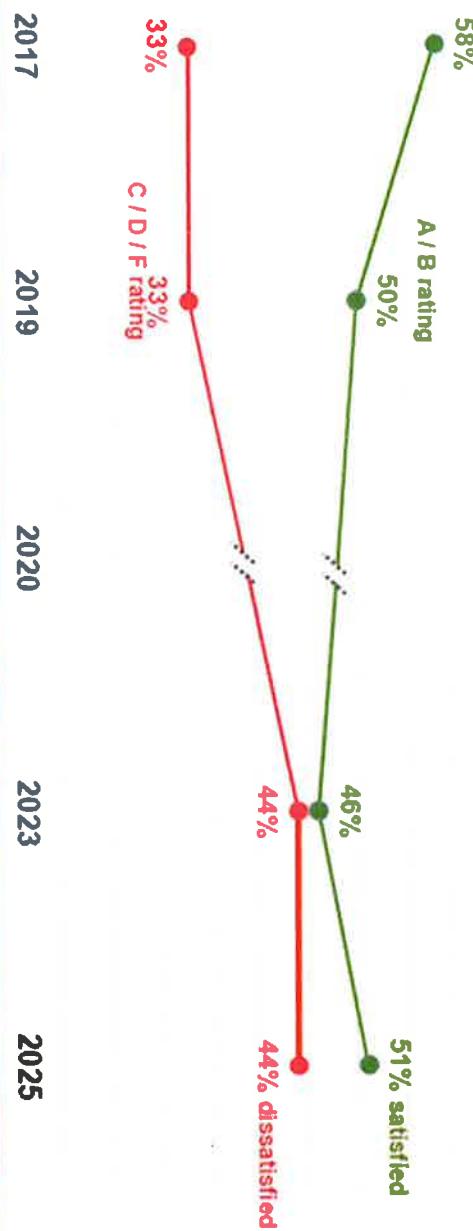
Voters in Puget Sound area and Eastern Washington are slightly more satisfied with **local** education quality than those in Western Washington and Clark County.

"Would you say you are generally satisfied or dissatisfied with the quality of education children receive at public schools **in your community specifically?** Is that very satisfied/dissatisfied or only somewhat?"



Satisfaction with local schools appears to have stabilized or rebounded slightly back from the lows in the post-pandemic years.

Assessments of Local Education, 2017 – 2025



Families value life readiness over test scores.

What Messages Resonate

79% say public schools are extremely valuable.

63% prioritize reading comprehension and life skills.

57% define success as being prepared for adult life.

Emphasize engaging, real-world learning, belonging, and multiple paths to success.

[Source: How Public Schools Can Defend Their Work - Without Tripping Into Political Debates](#)

Government Relations



Advocacy on Defense

- Districts are responsible for more and more without new resources.
- Declining enrollment enables legislators to invest in areas already underfunded.
- Avoid further cuts to any part of K-12 education.
- Cuts hurt the students who need support most.
- Pause new mandates; focus on stability.

SUPPORT CAPITAL FACILITIES

52

- Give Washington's citizens the opportunity to decide whether school district bond issues should be approved with a Simple Majority vote
- Update the current, outdated school construction formulas to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs
 - Construction Cost Allowance or CCA—cost per square foot
 - Student Space Allocation or SSA—square foot per student
- Support reliable funding for school facilities, including for districts that have difficulty passing bonds or have limited debt capacity

**Construction Cost Allowance
(CCA)—Cost per Square Foot**

Biennium	Fiscal Year	Market Cost of New Construction	State Funded CCA
2003-05	2004	\$ 172.27	\$ 125.32
2003-05	2005	\$ 184.41	\$ 129.81
2005-07	2006	\$ 204.69	\$ 141.95
2005-07	2007	\$ 261.83	\$ 154.22
2007-09	2008	\$ 264.46	\$ 162.43
2007-09	2009	\$ 224.58	\$ 168.79
2009-11	2010	\$ 226.73	\$ 174.26
2009-11	2011	\$ 238.37	\$ 180.17
2011-13	2012	\$ 246.80	\$ 183.78
2011-13	2013	\$ 275.95	\$ 188.55
2013-15	2014	\$ 270.31	\$ 194.26
2013-15	2015	\$ 315.56	\$ 200.40
2015-17	2016	\$ 329.45	\$ 206.76
2015-17	2017	\$ 330.13	\$ 213.23
2017-19	2018	\$ 382.83	\$ 219.58
2017-19	2019	\$ 419.36	\$ 225.97
2019-21	2020	\$ 422.89	\$ 232.10
2019-21	2021	\$ 470.34	\$ 238.22
2021-23	2022	\$ 499.14	\$ 242.26
2021-23	2023	\$ 599.45	\$ 246.83

Student Space Allocation (SSA)—Square Foot per Student

	Eligible Square Feet 1979	Eligible Square Feet Current	OSPI Workgroup Recommendations (2019)
K-6	90 sq ft/student	90 sq ft/student	140 sq ft/student
Grades 7-8	130 sq ft/student	117 sq ft/student	155 sq ft/student
Grades 9-12	130 sq ft/student	130 sq ft/student	165 sq ft/student
Students w/ Disabilities	150 sq ft/student	144 sq ft/student	165 sq ft/student

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

SENATOR PERRY DOZIER

PERRY.DOZIER@LEG.WA.GOV

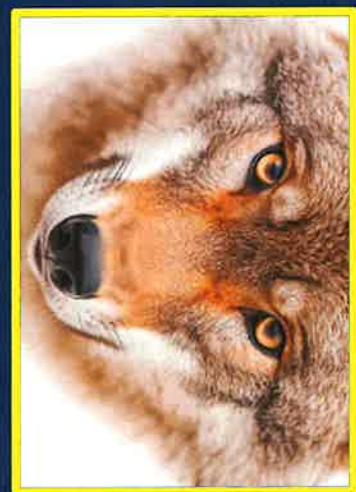
REPRESENTATIVE SKYLER RUDE

SKYLER.RUDE@LEG.WA.GOV

REPRESENTATIVE MARK KLICKER

MARK.KLICKER@LEG.WA.GOV

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Mr. Mark Bitzer, Principal



REPLACEMENT LEVY

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS & OPERATIONS (EP & O)

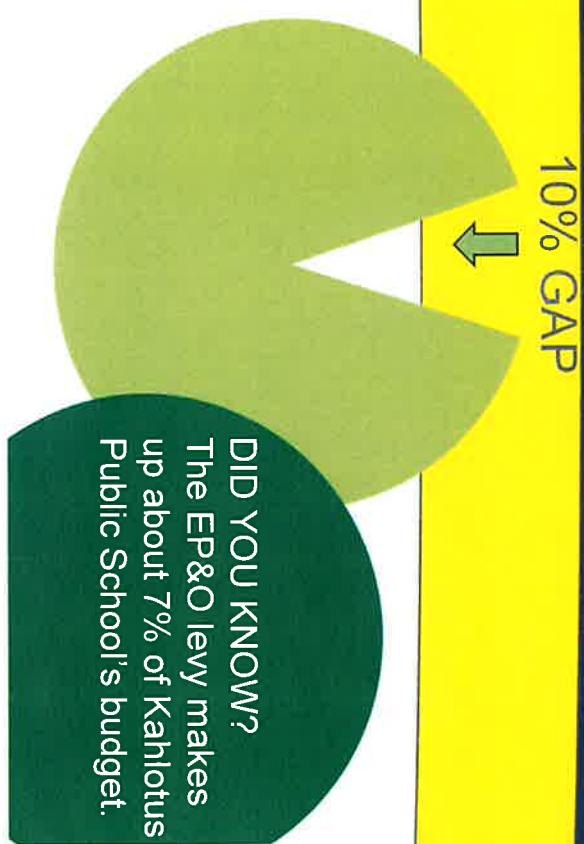
LEVY FACTS

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Mr. Mark Bitzer, Principal



Doesn't the state fully fund schools?

No. The state does not provide enough funding to cover the costs of programs and services important to local families. In other words, the state only funds part of the actual cost to operate a school district



What does the levy cover?

The current voter-approved levy ends in 2026. The proposed February 2026 levy replaces it and extends through 2028. The levy helps pay for things the state does not fund or underfunds, such as:



Food services, Classified Staff, Transportation Costs, Pool maintenance & operation



Food Services

Kahlotus School District employs a full time school cook to serve its students and staff. The state only provides funding for a portion of the cook position.



LEVY FUNDING



Paraprofessionals

Kahlotus School District employs 4 school paraprofessionals to serve its PreK-12 students, including library services. 2.5 are paid through special education (ESD 112). The state provides no funding for a district our size. The 1.5 other positions are funded through the levy.



LEVY-FUNDING



Transportation

Kahlotus School District has two bus routes. We also provide transportation for sports, field trips, student leadership events, FFA, band, community service, activities and staff trainings.



LEW-FUNDING



Kahlotus School
District

School & Community Pool

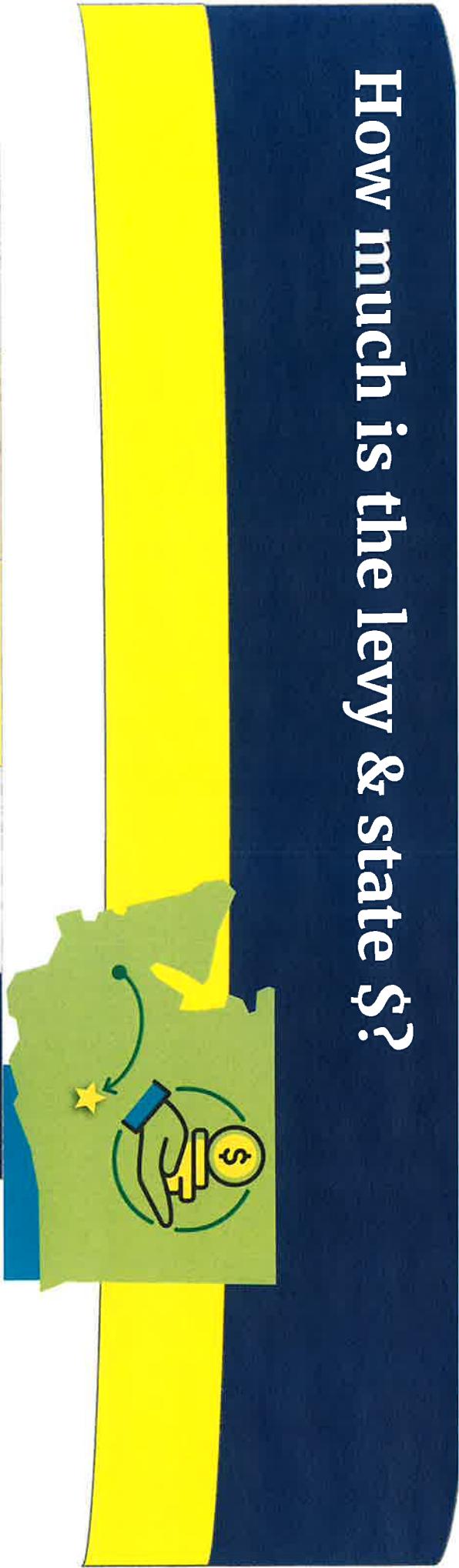
Kahlotus School District is one of the only school districts in the state of Washington to continue to provide a pool for PE and community activities including summer recreation, water safety and swimming lessons. We want to continue this! The care and maintenance for the pool as well as the operation is paid for through levw funds.



LEVY-FUNDING



How much is the levy & state \$?



	EP & O Levy Amount	EP&O Max Rate*	Local EP&O Rate	Estimated School Year Collection
2026	\$140,000.00	2.50	1.47	\$140,000.00
2027	\$140,000.00	2.50	1.43	\$66,332.00
2028	\$140,000.00	2.50	1.38	\$140,000.00
2029				\$140,000.00



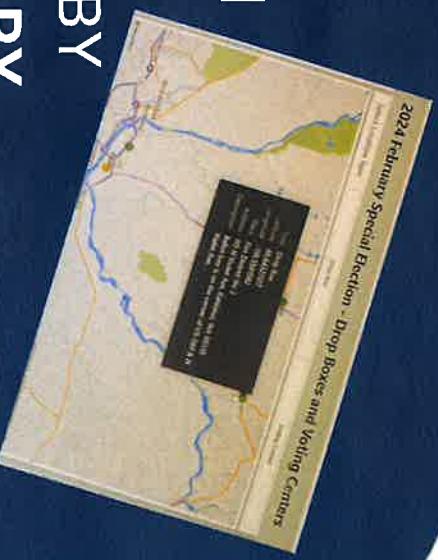
Kahlotus School
District

Voting Information

PLEASE
RETURN

YOUR
BALLOT BY
FEBRUARY

10, 2026!



APPLY
FIRST-CLASS
POSTAGE HERE
COLOCAR LA
ESTAMPA DE
CORREO AQUÍ



Return Envelope
Sobre de regreso
Postmark or deposit your ballot
by 8pm on election day.
For accessible voting and ballot
return options visit our website.
Su boleta debe ser depositada
o tener el sello postal antes de
las 8pm el día de las elecciones.
Para sitios de depósito de
boleta y accesibilidad visite
nuestro sitio web:
www.yakimacounty.us/vote

Ballots can be cast by mailing or dropping in an official drop box by 8:00 PM by Tuesday, February 10, 2026. Our local drop box is located at 115 N. Violet Avenue on the corner of US-260 and Violet Avenue.



Thank you to local residents! Kahlotus School District has had an operations levy in place continuously for more than 20 years. Local investment in our schools creates well-rounded educational programs for all students, which benefit the entire community.

THANK YOU KAHLOTUS COMMUNITY!





THANK YOU FOR
BEING HERE