

Community Connections

SPRING 2023



Replacement Levy Information, pg.5

'Shoug Shack' food truck offers tasty meals and job skills

Washougal School District celebrated the opening of Shoug Shack, the district's first ever student-run food truck, with an official ribbon cutting ceremony this February. The truck will be used as an extension of the Advanced Culinary Classroom.

Students in Career & Technical Education programs at Washougal High School applied classroom learning to plan and prepare this student-run food truck. "Having the food truck lets us put our classroom skills to work in a real business and gives us a leg up when heading out into the world of work," said Riley Harding, Washougal High School student in the Culinary Arts program.



Travis Gibson (left) Riley Harding (right), students in Culinary Arts at Washougal High School, serve food out of the newly opened Shoug Shack.



VFW presents excellence awards to Washougal staff and students

TOP LEFT: Anava Grundy, student at Columbia River Gorge Elementary, won the VFW Patriot's Pen essay contest at local, regional, and state levels. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Calvin Dayley, JMS student, won third place in the middle school category of the Patriot's Pen essay contest. **BELOW:** Cape Horn-Skye and CCMS art teacher Alice Yang, one of two teachers in SW Washington this year to be selected as VFW Teacher of the Year.



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

Spring time always brings a sense of hope and renewal to our community, with warm days and beautiful flowers springing up along walking trails. As a fellow Washougal community member, I recognize the special quality of life that Washougal offers. I am committed to making sure that my actions as your superintendent are contributing to and supporting our shared interest to see each of our students confident, hopeful, and prepared for successful life once they leave us. The recent failure of our two levies has certainly provided opportunity for deep reflection about what I can do better to communicate and connect our community to the excellent work happening each day in our classrooms.



For over 40 years, our community has supported students by passing local levies, providing funding for programs beyond what the state provides for students to find success as future citizens. While I am hopeful for a better outcome on April 25, 2023, we must prepare for the significant cuts to programs and staff that will be needed if the levies fail again. Preparing our "cut list" has been gut-wrenching for everyone involved. If we must enact these reductions, please know that every staff member and coach impacted by the reductions will have a personal conversation with support, and acknowledgement of their significant contribution to our schools and community.

Thank you to all of the community members, parents, staff, and students who have provided feedback to us over the last two months. The honest and heart-felt conversations have been appreciated and provide a sense of connection that was lost over the very difficult years of COVID. I believe in the strong futures we are building for students, I believe in our excellent staff who work tirelessly to nurture students, I believe in our engaged parents who partner with us, and I believe in our positive and strong community. Together we are building an educational destination, where each student can be known, nurtured, and challenged to Rise!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

The school board is hosting a series of listening tours around the district. These are an informal opportunity to sit with a board member, ask questions, and let us know how things are going. The conversations we have had with community members have been productive, and we have additional virtual and in-person listening dates scheduled (see below).

The board also has a survey gathering feedback from the community which has been open for about a month. The feedback we have received at the listening tours and through the survey has been very helpful, and we are thankful to those who have taken the time to share ideas with us.

These valuable opportunities to learn about things our community cares about are helping us identify places the district can improve and brainstorm creative solutions to problems that have come up in the community.

The feedback and values shared by our community help us balance the many needs that come up with the resources we have available. We are continuing to work through the budget process, and appreciate the focus on how we can reach our shared vision for excellent schools that our community identified in the strategic plan.

As volunteers who live in this community, we appreciate the opportunity to learn and find shared values with those we serve. All of this helps us guide the district and make the best decisions on behalf of our community.

LISTENING TOUR SCHEDULE

April 10: 5:30–7 p.m., Virtual via Zoom

April 11: 4–5:30 p.m., Excelsior Commons

April 21: 9–11 a.m., Bethel Community Church

May 16: 6–8 p.m., Location TBD

2023-24 CALENDAR ADOPTED

The Washougal School District 2023-24 school year calendar has been adopted by the Board of Directors. The first day of next school year will be September 5, 2023. The calendar is available in English, Spanish and Russian on our website.

BOARD MEETINGS

April 25, May 23 and June 20: Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room at 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal.



WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WashougalRising

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Mary Templeton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Cory Chase, President; Angela Hancock, Vice President; Chuck Carpenter, Legislative Rep; Jim Cooper; Sadie McKenzie

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT: The Washougal School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3050; Title IX Officer: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3050; Section 504 Coordinator: Connor McCroskey, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3020.

Congratulations to all of our Honor Band students!

Washougal was well represented at the Lower Columbia River Music Educators Association (LCRMEA) North County Honor Band concert this winter. The Washougal students joined more than 150 students from around the area, each of whom was recommended by their band teacher and selected based on their performances.

Washougal students selected for LCRMEA North County Honor Band:

Washougal High School (top right): Shane Andelman, James Byrum, Juliet Collins, Jack Dryden, David Finchum, AJ Graham, Anastasia Green, Zoe Hill, Tanner Hopkins, Bentley Jarman, Jonah Kauffman, Avri Kauffman, Sterling Kesler, Jacob Kettleson, Breyon Morris, Zackary Nelson, Jessica Nute, Caleb Perkins, Emmanuel Picho, Abi Picho, Lucas Sanders, Isabel Straus, Jayden Vasquez, Nathan Webb, Ellison Wilkins and Cole Wilson

Canyon Creek Middle School (lower left): Jack Hinchliff, James Kunz, Jenny Thurman and Jacob Wall

Jemtegaard Middle School (lower right): Amberlin McBee, Nicholas Peck and Thor Richardson

Music programs at Washougal School District are funded by school levies. If the levies fail this month, WSD would be required to make cuts and eliminate programs important to our students, including all arts and music programs.



Students showcase artwork during Washougal Youth Arts Month



Students in Ms. Bukajski's class at Gause Elementary showcase their animal dioramas, using art to demonstrate their learning.

Throughout March, students showcased classroom learning at Washougal Youth Arts Month events. Community events included the annual student art gallery, band concerts, choir performances, drama productions, and more. "Art is important because it helps get your creativity out into the world," said Lilly Kogel, 5th grade student at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary School.

Support for the arts is a longstanding tradition in Washougal, and WYAM has been an annual tradition in this community for 5 years. "Art not only helps students to creatively solve problems and exercise their imaginations, it also gets them excited about learning," said Alice Yang, art teacher at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary and Canyon Creek Middle School. "Washougal Youth Arts Month events celebrate student creativity."

If the levies do not pass this month, WSD would be required to make cuts and eliminate student-centered programs including all arts and music programs.

Hands-on robotics learning engages students of all ages

Robotics is an important job-readiness skill for STEM field careers. From experimentation with robotics as elementary school students to robotics competitions at the high school level, Washougal School District offers hands-on opportunities for students to develop coding and design skills. Washougal students are exposed to robotics at all levels.

This December, Washougal School District and Washougal Community Library partnered to bring hands-on robotics lessons to students in kindergarten through 5th grade at Gause and Hathaway Elementary schools. Hands-on experience with robotics kits opens a world of coding and programming to students at an early age, challenging students to practice job readiness skills in the classroom. "STEM activities like these help children engage with concepts of science, technology, engineering, and math, in a hands-on real world way," said Zoe Nash, Washougal Community Library Branch Manager.

Washougal High School students participate in FIRST Robotics Team Mean Machine, a combined team of students from Washougal School District, Camas School District, and Hockinson School



Students at Gause and Hathaway Elementary schools participated in hands-on robotics lessons this winter.



Carson Holmes, senior at Washougal High School, is a member of FIRST Robotics Team Mean Machine.

District. This spring, the team won at the district event finals and also earned the Team Sustainability Award. If the team qualifies based on performance at the regional meet this month, Team Mean Machine will compete in World Championships in Houston, Texas.

"When I graduate from high school, I'm going to Montana State University Honors College for Mechanical Engineering," said Carson Holmes, senior at Washougal High School and participant in FIRST Robotics Team Mean Machine. "As a kid, I always wanted to do robotics. Robotics is a key part of engineering careers."

Job-readiness programs across the district open doors for local students. "I started out in Metals classes in the Career & Technical Education program at Washougal High School. It made me want to join robotics and do stuff like this post-high school," said Lucas Sanders, junior at Washougal High School.

Washougal School District emphasizes real world applications of classroom lessons and nurtures a passion for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics in students of all ages. "With the rise of computer science jobs and not enough programmers to fill those positions, this is a lucrative career path," said Hillary Chapman, Library Media Specialist at Gause Elementary and Hathaway Elementary.

Athletics at ALL Washougal schools are funded by the EP&O levy



Washougal High School boys and girls wrestling teams win sub-regionals, compete in regionals

"Students in **performing arts** are able to be a part of a show, learn to program a light board, gain self confidence, and more. Levy dollars make these important experiences available for all kids."

- Kelly Gregersen, drama teacher, Washougal HS



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

If the EP&O levy fails in April, our students and staff will be facing:

ALL 
ARTS & MUSIC PROGRAMS CUT

ALL 
CLUBS & DRAMA PROGRAMS CUT

ALL 
ATHLETICS PROGRAMS CUT

40 
TEACHERS CUT

44 
SUPPORT STAFF CUT

5 
ADMINISTRATORS CUT

155 
CLUB ADVISORS & COACHES CUT

Proposed replacement levies are NOT NEW TAXES.

Proposed tax rates are lower than 2020 and about the same as 2023.

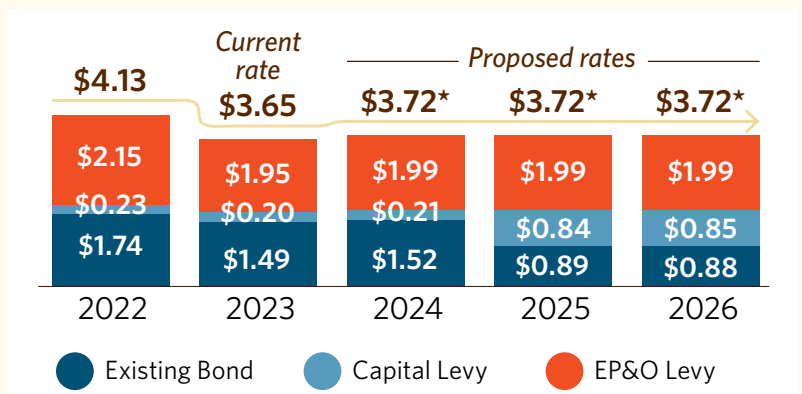
Will my taxes change?[†]



Change of about **\$2/month**, if levies are approved by voters.



[†]Levy taxes based on a home valued at \$539,000 in both tax years, the Washougal average sale price.



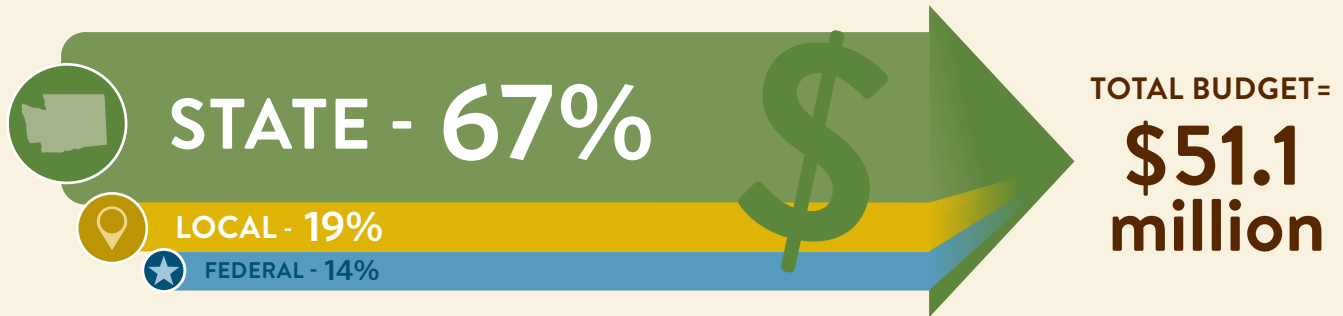
*Tax rates are per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Future tax rates are estimates.

Find more information at: www.washougal.k12.wa.us/district-budget-information/levy



2021-22 Financial Report

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM



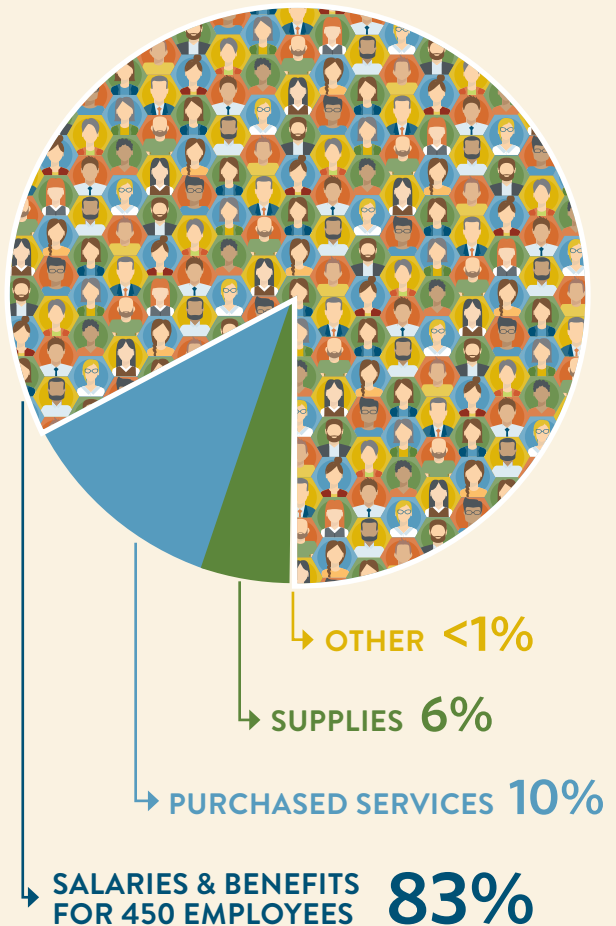
2021-22 REVENUES*

STATE FUNDS - 67%	\$34,108,963
Per pupil funding, State Levy Assistance, Transportation funds	
FEDERAL FUNDS - 14%	\$7,340,189
Special Ed, CTE, Title I, Title II, USDA Commodities, ESSER I, II & III	
LOCAL NON-TAX FUNDS - 2%	\$833,407
Facility rentals, community education, donations, etc.	
LOCAL LEVY FUNDS - 17%	\$8,853,426
Educational Programs & Operations Levy, Technology Levy	
TOTAL 2021-22 REVENUE	\$51,135,985

2021-22 EXPENDITURES*

BASIC EDUCATION - 47%	\$23,866,220
Most salaries & benefits, materials, professional development	
COVID EXPENDITURES (FEDERAL) - 9%	\$4,531,817
Additional staff, equipment and supplies related to COVID-19 response	
SPECIAL EDUCATION - 15%	\$7,839,404
Educating students with special needs	
CAREER & TECHNICAL ED. - 4%	\$2,200,362
Middle and high school career and college readiness	
OTHER INSTRUCTION - 5%	\$2,609,929
Title I, Learning Assistance, bilingual programs, Highly Capable	
TRANSFERS OUT - <1%	\$50,000
One-time, long-range capital facilities planning	
SUPPORT SERVICES - 20%	\$10,252,335
Purchased services and other operational expenses	
TOTAL 2021-22 EXPENDITURES	\$51,370,067

WHERE THE MONEY GOES



*Our fiscal year begins September 1 and ends August 31.
Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

2021-22 District Report

Known...

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

2,997 as of Oct. 2021

FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

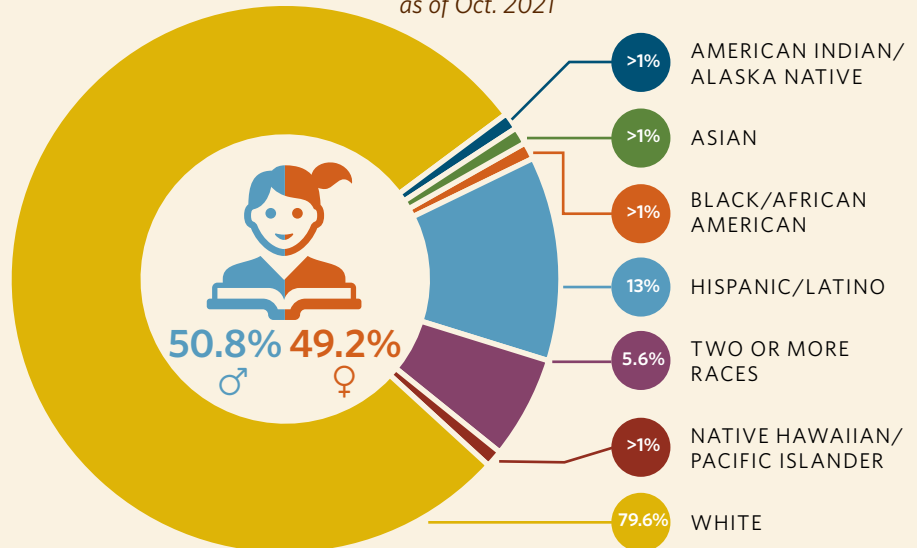
Percentage of students who qualify:

39%



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

as of Oct. 2021



Nurtured...

STUDENT : TEACHER RATIO

Average number of students per instructional staff member by grade.

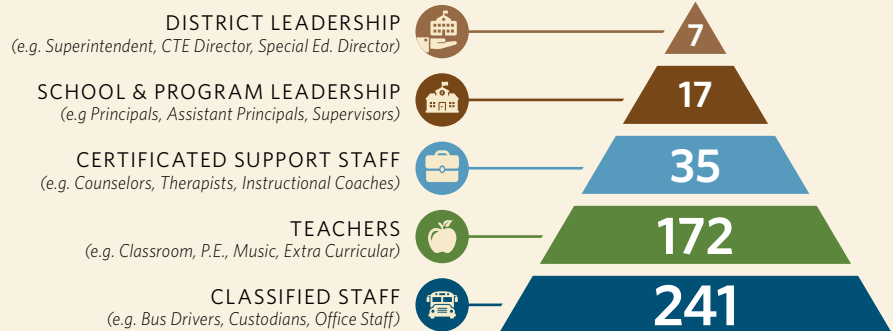
K-1 **16:1**
2-3 **19:1**
4-5 **17:1**
6-8 **21:1**
9-12 **23:1**



Includes classroom teachers as well as specialists, such as art, music, P.E. and library instructors.

BREAKDOWN OF DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

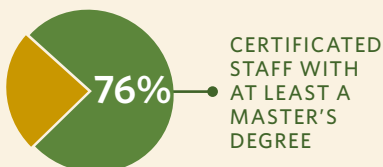
as of Feb. 2022



Challenged to Rise!

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

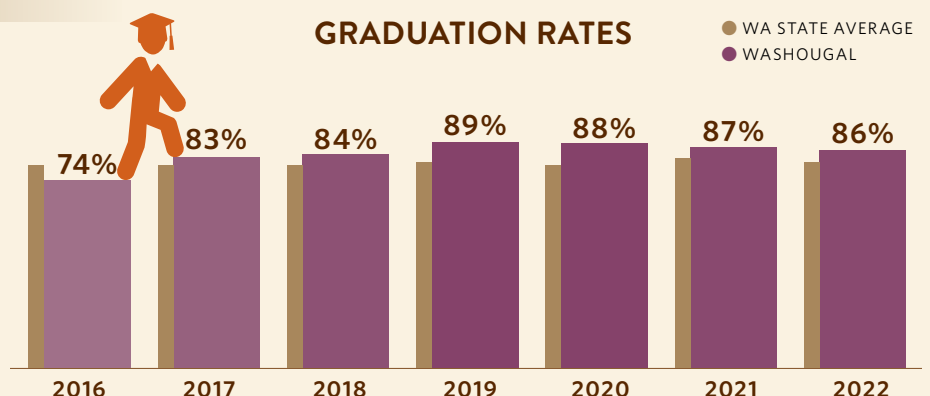
- 207 CERTIFICATED STAFF
- 12 AVERAGE YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE



For more info on the professional qualifications of your student's teacher, please contact your school principal.

GRADUATION RATES

● WA STATE AVERAGE
● WASHOUGAL



View test scores and more data at <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.



#WashougalRising
www.washougal.k12.wa.us
4855 Evergreen Way • Washougal, WA 98671

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Washougal, WA
Permit No. 14

Washougal School District Patron
Washougal, WA 98671

Now enrolling for fall!



TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Washougal's free all-day program for four-year-olds is open for enrollment for Fall 2023.

Transitional Kindergarten, also known as TK, is a no-cost early learning program primarily for four-year-olds. The TK program provides a high-quality early learning environment. This program is open to students in need of additional preparation to be successful in kindergarten.

Eligible students must...

- Be four years old by August 31, 2023 to participate,
- Reside within the Washougal School District boundary, and
- Not otherwise be identified for participation in the Head Start and/or ECEAP preschool programs.



Lenguaje dual



DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Washougal School District is expanding our Dual Language program, with service for students in Kindergarten, first, and second grades for Fall 2023.

The Dual Language program at Hathaway Elementary School promotes high levels of academic achievement for students while enabling them to become fluent in both English and Spanish. The program is partially funded by the Washougal School District Educational Programs & Operations levy, which is up for renewal this April.

Do you have a child who will be five as of August 31, 2023 who may be interested in attending the dual language program? Contact Wendy Morrill, Hathaway Principal, to learn if this program is a great fit for your family.

Visit our website for more information and to register:
washougal.k12.wa.us/new-student-registration

