

CONTINUING TO INVEST IN SEATTLE'S KIDS

HOW SEATTLE'S EDUCATION LEVIES IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL + HEALTH OUTCOMES, FROM PRE-K THROUGH K-12 AND COLLEGE

Councilmembers M. Lorena González & Rob Johnson

What is the education levy?

The Families, Education, Preschool & Promise Levy funds Seattle's quality Pre-K program, increases K-12 graduation rates for low-income students & students of color, improves students' health & creates the Seattle Promise - allowing high school graduates to attend two free years of community or technical college.

Why is this coming up now?

In 1990, Seattle's first Families and Education levy was passed to invest in our kids and communities through targeted, education-based investments to optimize learning beyond basic education. Seattle voters and families supported the City's education levy again in 1997, 2004, and 2011, in addition to making a historic inaugural investment in early learning through the Seattle Preschool Program in 2014. Our two current levies, the 2014 Seattle Preschool Program and 2011 Families and Education levy, will expire at the end of 2018.

What have I gotten for my past investments in education levies?

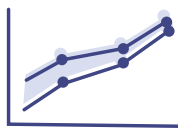
Voters approved the Pre-K levy in 2014, creating a pilot program that has served over 1,500 three and four year-olds, most of them from low-income households. The previous Families and Education Levy was approved by voters in 2011 and has improved graduation rates, health outcomes, assisted homeless students, narrowed the opportunity gap and more.

PRE-K 1,500+ Students Served
Previous Levy Passed in 2014



Increased Kindergarten Readiness

Pre-K graduates are better prepared to enter kindergarten.



Narrowed the Opportunity Gap

Students of color made more progress than their peers not in the program.



Boosted Lifetime Earnings

Graduates of quality Pre-K earn more money over their lifetimes.



Affordable Tuition

76% of students from low-income families received free tuition & 24% paid on a sliding scale.



Teaching More Students

What started as 280 students in 15 classrooms will have grown to over 1,500 students in 77 classrooms.



Achieving High Quality

Pre-K classrooms are independently evaluated and have made consistent improvements each year.

K-12 13,500+ Students Served
Previous Levy Passed in 2011



Improved Graduation Rates

Graduation rates have been increasing in part due to more instructional staff, more learning time, academic case managers & wraparound services.



Narrowed the Opportunity Gap

Levy programs have narrowed the K-12 opportunity gap. For example, Ingraham High School narrowed its gap by 56%.



Better Health Outcomes

Improved healthcare has boosted attendance, increased GPAs & saved parents + employers time.



Student Health Centers

8,000 students received physical & mental healthcare at 25 different locations across the district, totaling ~39,000 visits.



College & Career Planning

Extra services are provided to students to help them plan their next steps after graduation.



More Learning Time

Students receive additional time to learn, both after school and during the summer. For example, 2,500 students received summer instruction due to levy programs.



What's different about this levy?



Expanding Pre-K

Seattle Preschool Program (SPP) is working. Our proposal includes a commitment to expand slots, bolster our workforce and recruit new early learning educators, and grow the number of SPP classrooms across Seattle.



Seattle Promise

More than 75% of jobs in the Seattle area will require postsecondary degrees and/or certificates. Seattle Promise, a partnership between Seattle Colleges and the City of Seattle, will provide tuition and supports to bridge students into living-wage jobs of the 21st century.



Addressing Student Homelessness

There are 4,280 K-12 students experiencing homelessness in Seattle, 8 times more than 2010.

The levy dedicates resources to help these students impacted by the homelessness crisis, allowing them to make academic gains throughout the school year.

And the same?



K-12 & Community-Based Investments

The 2018 proposal builds on the successes from previous levies. In partnership with Seattle Public Schools (SPS) & community-based organizations, we will continue investments to improve graduation rates, fund student health centers, narrow the opportunity gap, provide additional learning time & provide more instructional staff, amongst other successes.

Didn't property taxes just increase to pay for education?

In the landmark 2012 McCleary decision, the Washington State Supreme Court declared our state legislature was breaking its paramount duty and underfunding basic education in our public schools. The Washington State Legislature has spent subsequent years to create a constitutionally sound budget; 2018's legislative session resulted in a substantial property tax increase for some residents, especially Seattle taxpayers. The tax hike is a significant and permanent change, and funds only K-12 basic education as part of the McCleary ruling. According to state law, basic education focuses on reading comprehension, math, the sciences, civics, history and other disciplines - with the stated goal of being ready for future career and educational opportunities.

The City's education levy, on the other hand, would generate Seattle-specific funds and programs not included in the state's property tax increase or definition of basic education. The levy will fund crucial investments that support academics through school-based and community-based settings, creating a holistic approach to supporting education. As with past levies, this proposal will continue to close the opportunity gap and school readiness gap, work to increase equitable access & support our students and youth to make the most of their potential.

How much more would I pay?

The two expiring levies, the 2014 Pre-K Levy and the 2011 Families & Education Levy, currently cost the median homeowner \$136/year or about \$11.34/month in property taxes. The 2018 Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy is a renewal as well as an enhanced proposal that expands preschool classrooms and postsecondary opportunities. These enhancements, along with our continued K-12 and school-based health investments, would cost the median homeowner \$248/year, or \$20.70/month, \$9.36 more per month than they're paying now.

Current Investment

\$11.34/mo
\$136/yr

Adding Pre-K Expansion
& Promise Plan

\$20.70/mo
\$248/yr

Change for
Median Home

\$9.36/mo
\$112/yr

Seniors, veterans
& low income
households qualify
for exemptions

Where can I learn more?



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