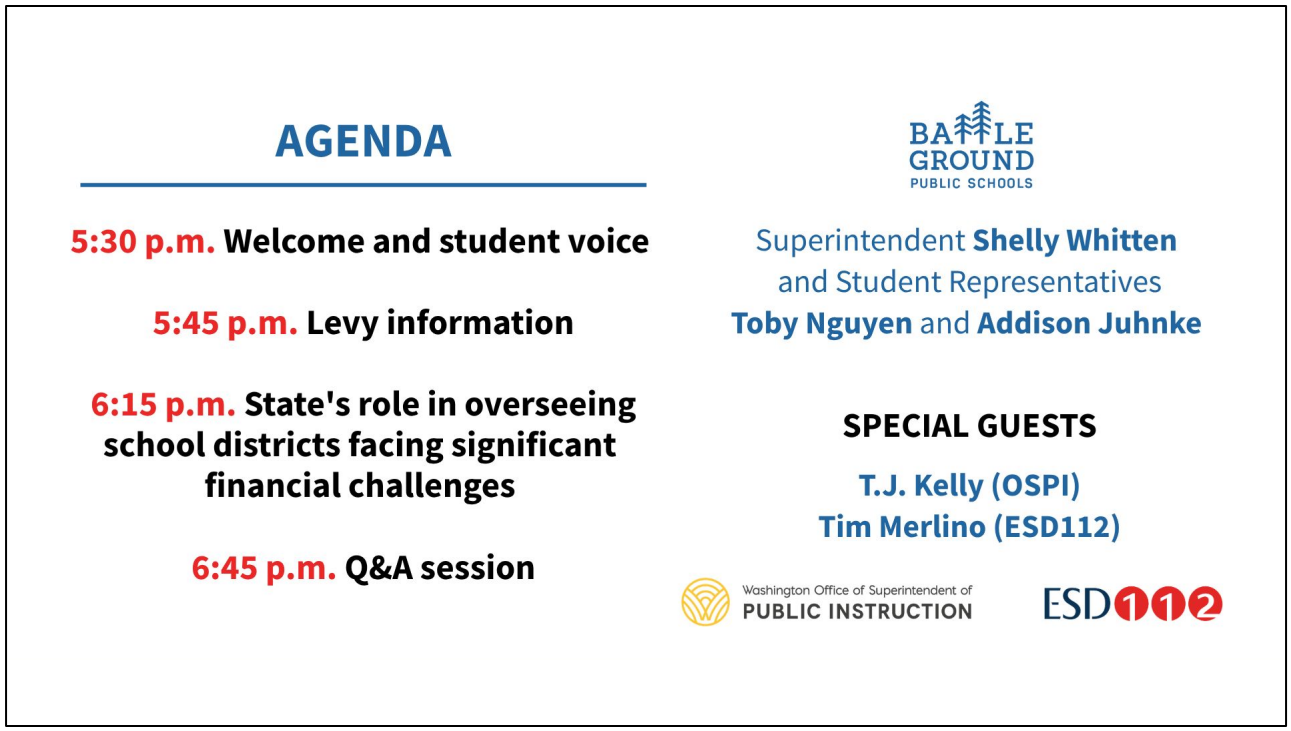


Over the past two years, BGPS has made $34 million in budget cuts due to the loss of levy funding.

- 270 positions cut
- Fewer safety staff (including security, crossing guards and school resource officers)
- Less academic support (fewer teachers and specialists who help students meet learning standards, no summer school, fewer programs for students who can learn at an advanced level)
- Fewer counselors
- Fewer job readiness classes (about 13% less)
- Larger class sizes
- Decreased student activities (fewer performances, no middle school activities or sports, participation fee increases)



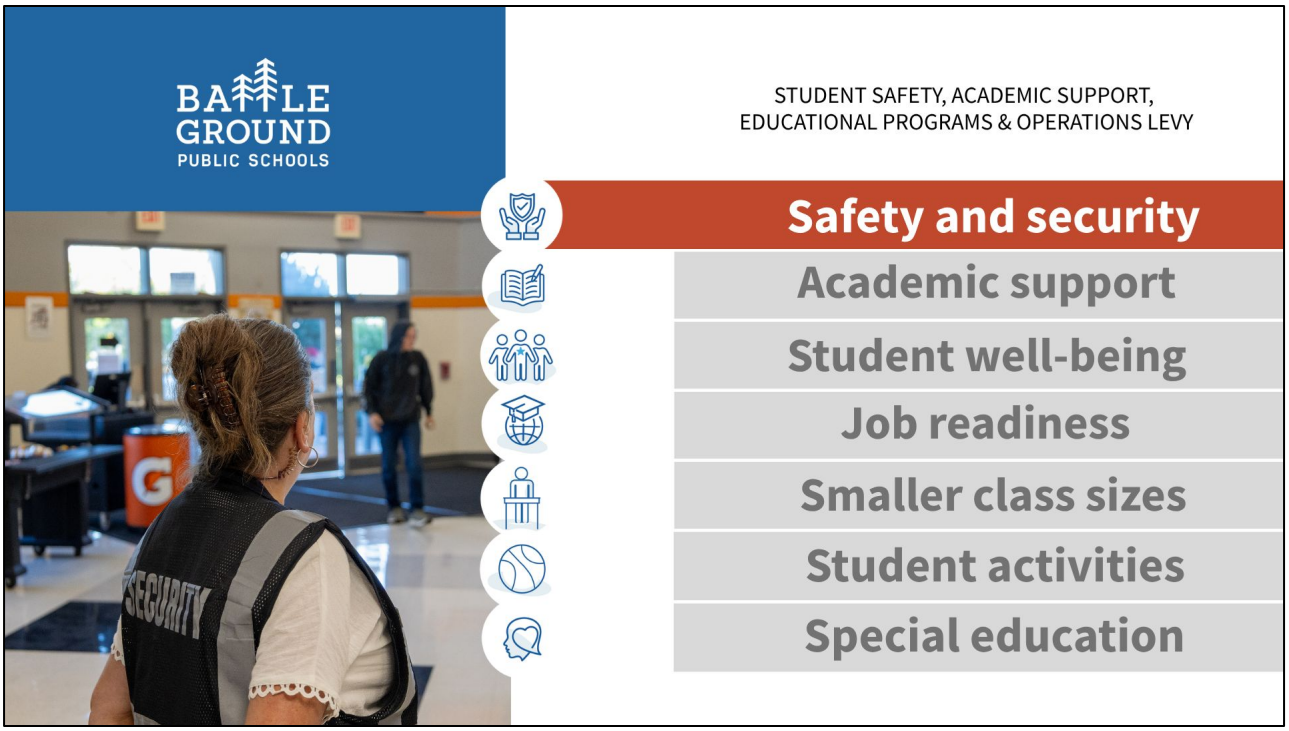
97% of WA state school districts have at least one local levy for educational programs and operations.

- Battle Ground is the only school district in Clark County without this type of levy in place.

If the levy passes, the district will become eligible for additional funding from non-levy sources such as state timber harvests. This funding does not increase property taxes.

- $250,000 average annual amount in past years

This levy was developed through input from surveys and listening sessions involving students, parents / guardians, staff and community members.

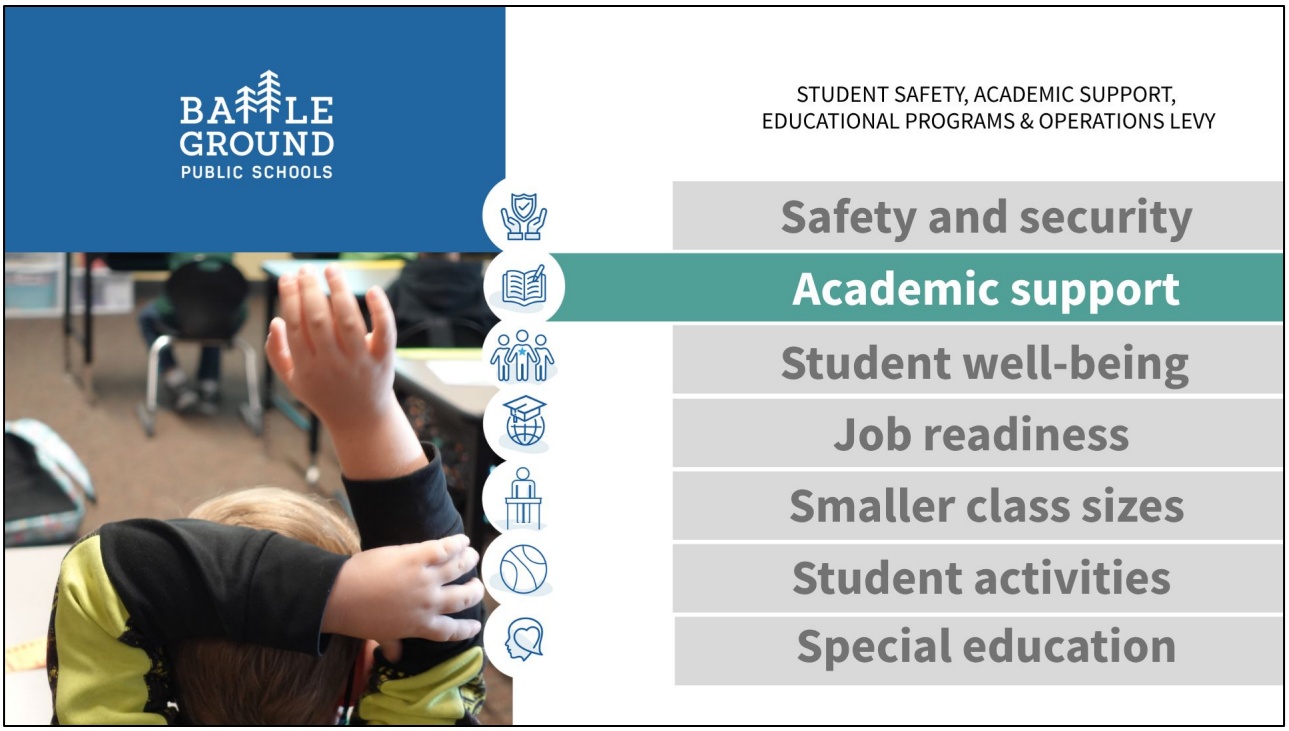


More student supervision and safety / security measures

Why this is included: Safety is consistently cited as a priority in recent surveys about the district's budget. The state funds only 2 security positions for the district, which spans 273 square miles and includes 19 schools.

What would be funded:

- Increased school supervision
- More campus security and school resource officers
- Increased bullying / discipline response
- Increased safety training / preparedness

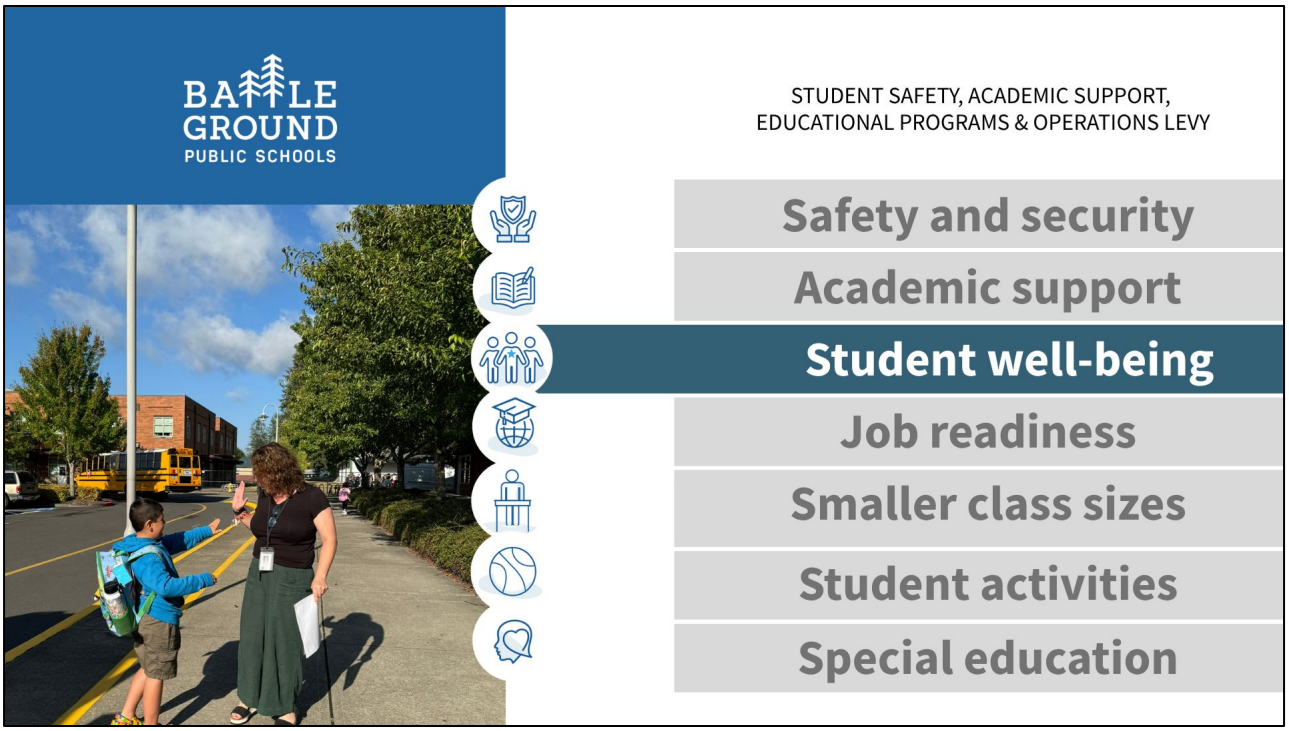


Additional student instruction and resources

Why this is included: Increasing test scores and high school graduation rates are objectives in the district's current strategic plan.

What would be funded:

- Keeping teaching and learning materials up to date
- Help for students who are not meeting standards in core subjects like reading and math
- Programs that help students make up credits needed to graduate



Increased focus on student well-being

Why this is included: Research shows that missing more than 10% of school days for any reason, whether it is an excused or unexcused absence, can result in students having difficulty learning to read by the third grade and graduating from high school.

What would be funded:

- Attendance tracking / improvement
- Responding to student behavior needs
- Staff who partner with parents / guardians to support student mental health
- Services to help students make healthy choices

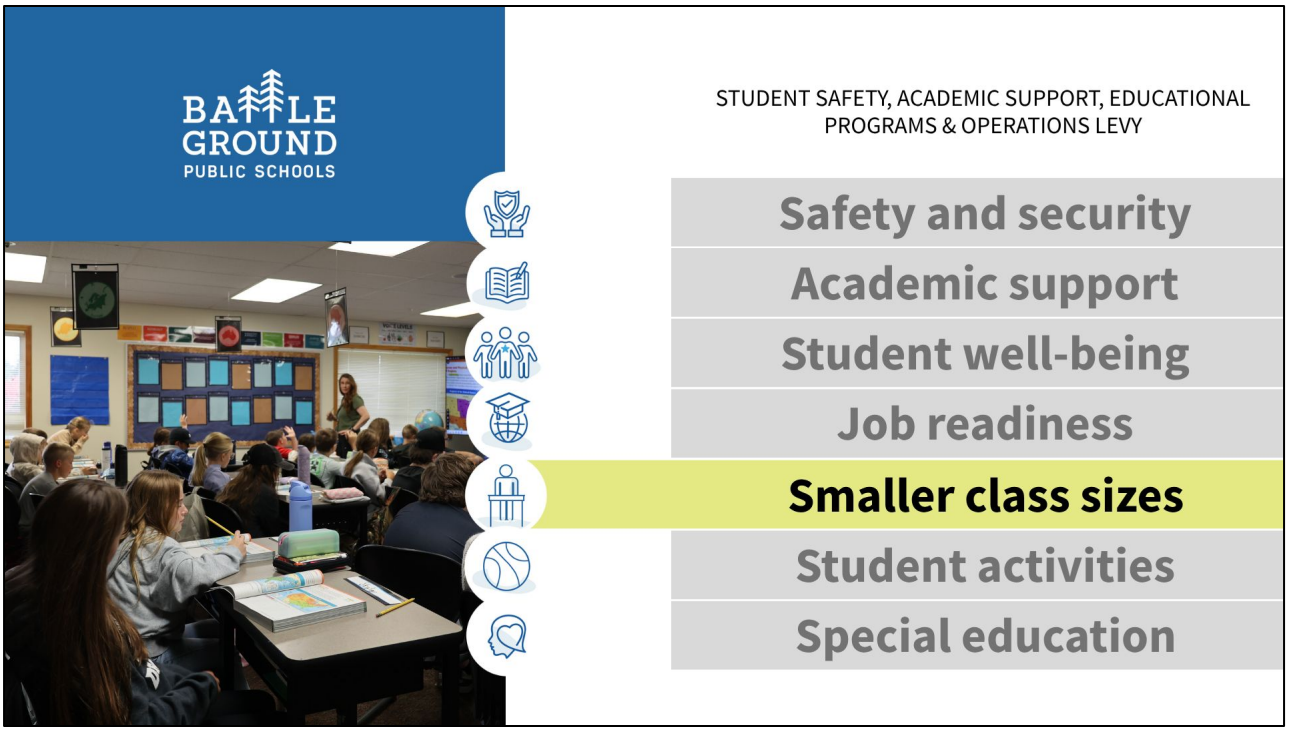


More classes to prepare students for jobs and life after high school

Why this is included: At any given time, 37% of BGPS high school students are enrolled in a Career or Technical Education class (vocational). The number of Career and Technical Education classes has been reduced by 12.7% due to budget cuts.

What would be funded:

- Restoring some career and technical education classes that prepare students for future jobs, apprenticeships, the military and / or college

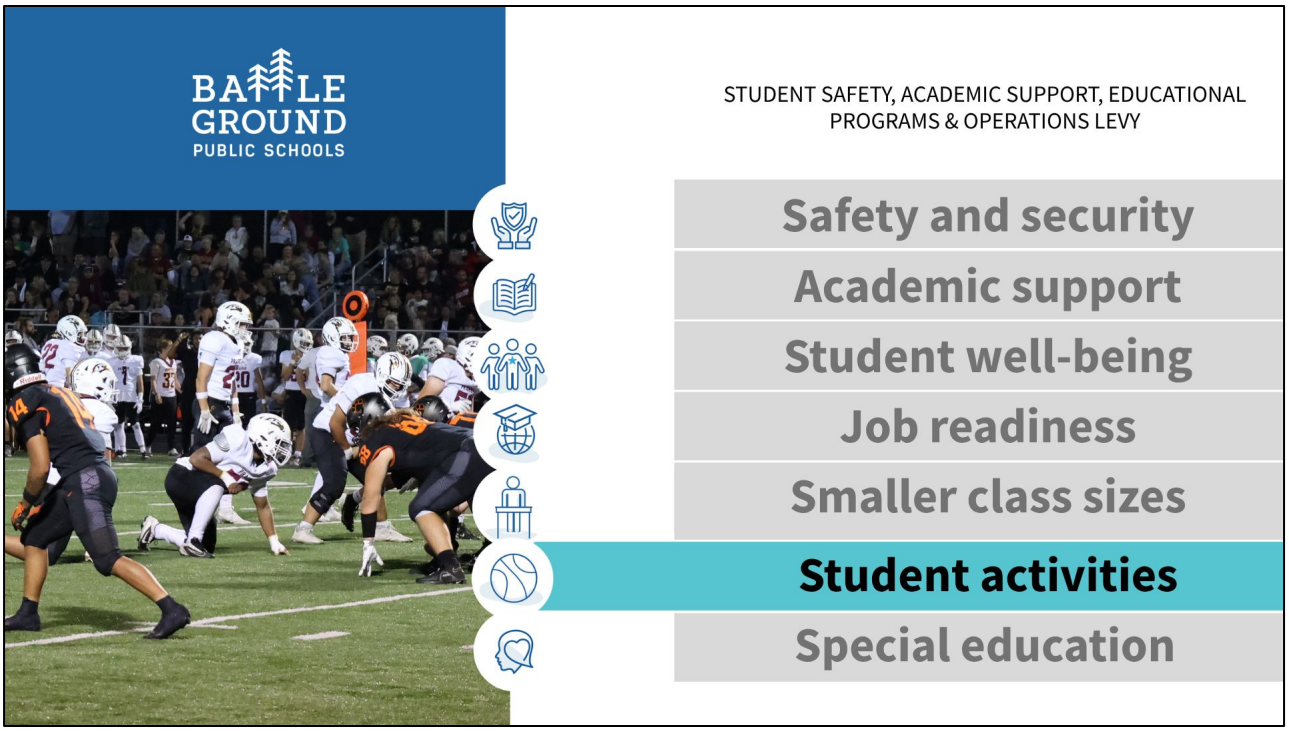


Smaller class sizes

Why this is included: Recent budget reductions resulted in the elimination of 16% of teaching positions in the district. As a result, class sizes have increased.

What would be funded:

- Staffing for more classes, which would reduce average class sizes and increase individualized instruction for students

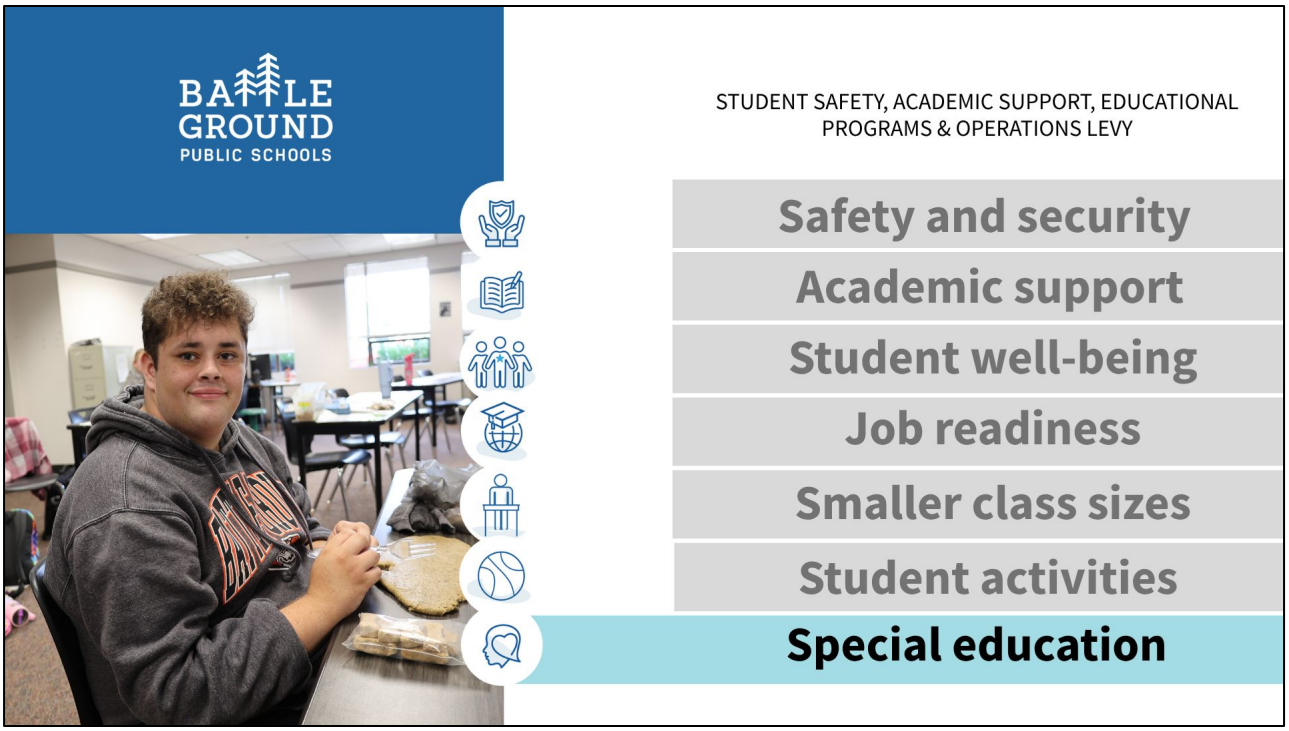


Additional student activities

Why this is included: Washington state does not provide any basic education funding for sports, clubs or co-curricular activities (e.g., SkillsUSA, band, theater, student leadership).

What would be funded:

- Extracurricular activities and sports, including some high school sports previously reduced or eliminated in budget cuts



Special education

Why this is included: Approximately 15% of BGPS students receive special education services. The district is underfunded in special education by $3.74 million to $6 million

What would be funded:

- Services for students with higher needs and / or disabilities, such as aides, individualized instruction and / or accommodations, scheduling and behavioral support

Levy amounts

$37.03 million in 2027 • $38.69 million in 2028 • $40.43 million in 2029

By law, the district cannot collect any more than the amount that voters approve.

See a complete breakdown of how the full levy amount would be used, including state compliance requirements:

battlegroundps.org/educational-levy

How much would the levy cost?



For a $650,000 home, the cost would be $95 per month starting in 2027.

Estimated annual rate:
$1.76 per $1,000 of assessed property value.

Some property owners may be eligible for a property tax exemption. Contact the Clark County Assessor's Office.



- Ballots will be mailed October 16.
- Remember to mail your ballot within one week of Election Day. If you put it in the mail after that, it may not be received in time to be counted. This is due to changes to USPS processes within the last year.
- If you are returning your ballot after October 27, please use one of the red drop boxes.
- The levy will be the last thing listed on your ballot, on page 2.

School District Binding Conditions and Financial Oversight

Battle Ground School District

Citizens Advisory Committee

October 8, 2026

T.J. Kelly, Chief Financial Officer, OSPI
thomas.kelly@k12.wa.us

Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

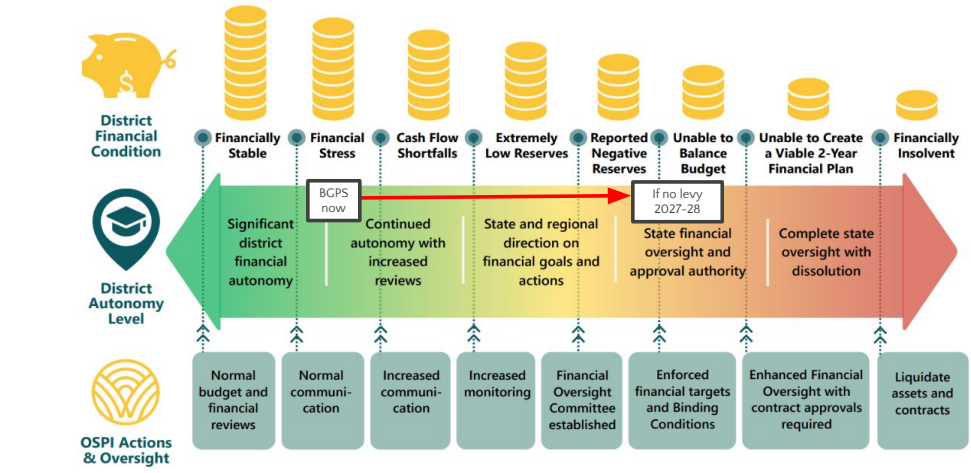
Questions to Answer

- How does a district enter state financial oversight?
- What are the stages of state financial oversight?
- What factors are impacting school districts financial status today?
- What does success look like?

Background Information

- School districts are required to report to OSPI the financial plans or status of the district multiple times per year as follows:
  - Budget – for upcoming school year (August).
  - Budget Revision – to increase the authority for the district to spend above currently approved limit or re-state fiscal position (as needed).
  - Financial statements (November).
- The financial activities in these reports must result in a *positive fund balance* for the period being reported.
- Not doing so requires a district to enter formal financial oversight, which could lead to progressive loss of local control.

State Process for Financial Oversight



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Current Status of State Oversight

- There are three formal stages of state financial oversight:
  - Binding Conditions
    - Yelm, Shelton, Mabton, Mt. Baker, Bellevue, Kiona-Benton, Marysville, Vancouver, Burlington-Edison, Prosser
  - Financial Oversight
    - No districts currently assigned here.
  - Enhanced Financial Oversight
    - Prescott
- Each of these are jointly administered by OSPI and the local Educational Service District.

Binding Conditions

- Binding conditions are a set of financial performance goals and actions that the district must achieve through local decision making.
- Districts can, and often do, self impose fiscal targets and restrictions before entering state oversight.
- A district must request binding conditions if they submit a formal budget, budget revision, or financial statement that ends in a negative fund balance.
- Binding conditions does not automatically nullify or otherwise impact existing collective bargaining agreements.

Financial Oversight Committee (FOC)

- Convened if a district is unable to construct a viable financial plan that restores a positive fund balance within two school years.
- The FOC must hold a public hearing in the district to solicit feedback on the financial plan of the district.
- The FOC makes a recommendation to the State Superintendent regarding either keeping the district on binding conditions or moving them to enhanced financial oversight.

Enhanced Financial Oversight (EFO)

- A special administrator is appointed by the State Superintendent to work with the district on behalf of the FOC to achieve financial goals.
- The FOC or special administrator can require pre-approval of certain financial transactions or activities. For example, every expenditure above $5,000 that is not already included in the budget must get approval from the FOC.
- The FOC or special administrator can deny or cancel expenditures for non-required costs without district agreement.
- If a district cannot return to financial stability within two years, the FOC can require dissolution of the school district.

Factors Impacting Finances and Fund Balance

- Loss of significant revenue source either state, local (primarily levy), or federal (Tile I, II, III, IV, etc.).
- Declining or stagnant enrollment.
- Inflation exceeding the state formulas.
- Continuously relying on fund balance or one-time revenue sources to cover ongoing expenditures to meet cash flow needs.
- Lack of a plan to address imminent financial challenges.

Lower Fund Balance = Bigger Challenges

- State apportionment payment schedule. Districts receive 22.5% of annual operating funds in two months (July and August).
- Timing of reimbursed costs such as safety net for students with disabilities.
- Actual year-to-date enrollment through January is less than what was budgeted.
- Unexpected staff absences leading to increased substitute costs.
- Prolonged sports season due to successful teams.

What Does Success Look Like?

- Successful state oversight monitors the financial situation of the district to return it to financial health within two school years.
- The objective of state oversight is not to consolidate districts, permanently remove local decision making, or impact local collective bargaining processes.
- Reduced local decision making may be a short-term impact of Enhanced Financial Oversight – but the goal is long-term financial health and stability with local control.

Questions?

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