



2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

EQUITABLE PK-12 SCHOOL FUNDING AND FINANCE SYSTEM

Arlington Public Schools urges the legislature to launch a stakeholder Workgroup to fully review and assess the adequacy of the current funding structure and recommend changes to ensure ample and equitable funding for school districts to educate students in Arlington and across the State of Washington. The proposed Workgroup recommendations would address changes to the Prototypical School Funding Model, Salary Allocations, Regionalization, Experience Factors, and equitable reforms addressing local school district levies and Local Effort Assistance.

MATERIALS, SUPPLIES, AND OPERATING COSTS (MSOC)

Arlington Public Schools urges the Legislature to increase MSOC allocations to more closely match the costs of running a school district. The Legislature's per pupil allocation to cover non-staff related costs, including utilities, insurance, curriculum, and technology, has not kept pace with inflation. In Arlington, insurance costs have more than quadrupled since 2017 from \$321,234 to \$1,323,320. These costs are increasing at no fault to the district. Thank you for providing some relief in the 2025-27 Operating Budget; however, there are still unmet needs where local levies must fill the gaps, reducing local resources to support student learning.

SCHOOL CAPITAL FACILITIES

Arlington School District urges the Legislature to provide solid and reliable funding for school facilities, including funding for school districts that have difficulty passing local bonds or have limited debt capacity to support necessary new construction or modernization. In Arlington, we have asked voters seven times since 2018 to support the funding for replacing Post Middle School which is deficient and does not meet the safety or learning needs of our students. We are now developing contingency plans such as double shifting at another school to be prepared if the building becomes unable to be occupied partially or fully. We have over 600 amazing students attending this school. To support these students and many more across the state, the Legislature must enhance the state's investment in K-12 construction by updating the antiquated, pre-1980 funding formulas to ensure funding more closely reflects actual construction costs and educational space needs. Additionally, the Legislature must give Washington's citizens the opportunity to decide whether school district bond issues should be approved with a simple majority vote.

Our mission is to educate all students, preparing and inspiring them to graduate and seek their full potential as lifelong learners.

Board of Directors

- Mary Levesque, President
- Erica Knapp, Vice President
- Sheri Kelly, Legislative Representative
- Matt Dimond, Board Member
- Nicole Watts, Board Member
- Mady Van Beek, Student Advisor
- Alex Phillips, Student Advisor

Superintendent

- Dr. Chrys Sweeting

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

315 N French Avenue
Arlington, WA 98223
360-618-6202
www.asd.wednet.edu



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Arlington Public Schools urges the Legislature to complete the efforts to fully fund the cost of special education services for our most vulnerable students. All school districts have the legal responsibility to educate all students, including students with disabilities. In Arlington, funding received for 24-25, including Safety Net, did not cover the cost of services for about 750,000 dollars, which is better than the previous year when funding fell short by \$1.4 million. We appreciate the additional funding for special education in the 2025-27 Operating Budget; however, special education is still not fully funded and local funding sources, including local levies, are needed to cover essential costs.

SUPPORTING STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTING SELF-HARM

Arlington Public Schools urges the Legislature to support funding to provide and increase on-site mental health counseling support services for preventing self-harm and overdoses, as well as providing training and resources to respond to mental health needs, issues, or crises.

