

Our identity is changing. With growth in population, cultures, languages and industry in our district, we are setting our sights on our strategic plan for the next five years to focus on the following:

ENGAGEMENT



With our students, staff, families and entire community

EXCELLENCE



Strive for the most rigorous academic programs to serve ALL kids

EQUITY



Disrupt institutional bias based on race, background or circumstances



and portions of Snohomish County

The district will be working with the community over the next several months to finalize our strategic plan. We will share that plan with the School Board prior to the start of next school year.

AT-A-GLANCE



21,664
students



1,312
classroom
teachers



34
schools



114
languages
spoken

**Data from the 2019-20 school year*

Edmonds School Dist 15
20420 68th Avenue West
Lynnwood, WA 98036-7405
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A message from Superintendent Dr. Balderas

Dear Edmonds School District community,

2020 has brought incredible challenges, but this year has also pushed us to think in new and creative ways for how we educate every single one of our students.

I've had the opportunity of being your Superintendent of the Edmonds School District since July 1. I'll be honest, it has been the most difficult year of my 30-plus years in public education.

I know it has been and continues to be a struggle for many of our kids, their families and staff as we deal with COVID-19 and remote learning. We want our kids back in our brick and mortar classrooms, and we are doing the work to make that happen in the safest way possible.

Edmonds Schools Stages of Re-entry plan

I am grateful for the work, thought and detail that has



Superintendent
Dr. Gustavo
Balderas

gone into our Edmonds Schools Stages of Re-entry plan. The plan lays out specific steps for who, when and how we bring students back to learning

in-person.

Stage One of the re-entry plan begins with in-person learning for two Special Education programs, Hazelwood Elementary School's Visually Impaired Program and Madrona K-8 School's preschool through 8th grade Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program. Next comes some of our students in Intensive Support programs. Then we plan to bring back Developmental Kindergarten students, as well as specific Special Education programs at Scriber Lake High School.

I invite you to visit our website <https://bit.ly/ESDRe-entryPlan> to see the entire plan, as well as the latest updates on in-person learning. Families have the option to remain in remote learning for the remainder of the school year if they so choose.

COVID-19 continues to be a moving target and we will make modifications when needed and diligently follow the latest safety recommendations from our health officials, including changing re-entry dates if directed to do so by the Snohomish Health District.

2021 Capital Levy

The School Board has approved Resolution 20-30, which means the district will ask voters to consider a funding measure for a capital levy to upgrade, address capacity challenges and improve existing facilities. The measure will be on the April 27, 2021 ballot.

We believe this capital levy is critical and will address the following needs: asset preservation; safety, security and accessibility; capacity challenges; and replace school buildings well past their lifespan.

The district has prepared what we believe is a fiscally responsible funding plan. If the 2021 Capital Levy is approved by voters, it will provide \$30 million per year for each of the next six years.

Superintendent Student Advisory Committee

I am excited to have 21 students selected as part of the Superintendent Student Advisory Committee. The committee is made up of student leaders in grades 9th-12th, with representation from each of the district's high schools.

We need to bring our students to the table and hear directly from them on what school communities need and how we can provide better support. I plan to meet with the committee regularly and share updates with the community.

Thank you

I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting the children who live in our community. We know we are all dealing with challenging times, but we will get through this and we will be better because of it.

Best,

Dr. Gustavo Balderas
Superintendent



Spruce Elementary, before Phase 1 completion.



The district completed Phase 1 in September 2019.



If voters approve the capital levy, Phase 2 of construction would begin spring 2021.

A fiscally responsible move by the district

It was a bold move, but one that likely saved taxpayers approximately \$3 million. Here's the story ...

The 2014 voter-approved capital construction bond included money for minor improvements to Spruce Elementary School in Lynnwood. It allowed for enough funds to add a few classrooms and, at best, minimally upgrade parts of the existing buildings. When the district's Capital Projects Department analyzed the project, they concluded this was a poor investment of taxpayer money because it would not solve fundamental problems of safety, security,

functionality and code compliance. It would have been more expensive to bring Spruce up to standard than to tear it down and build a brand new building. This is often the case with older buildings.

So what happened? The district decided, with School Board approval, to design a complete replacement of the school. The plan was to use existing bond funds, revenue from selling other district property, and state grants. Well, the property sales are still pending. However, because the district managed the other bond projects well, it was able to complete the

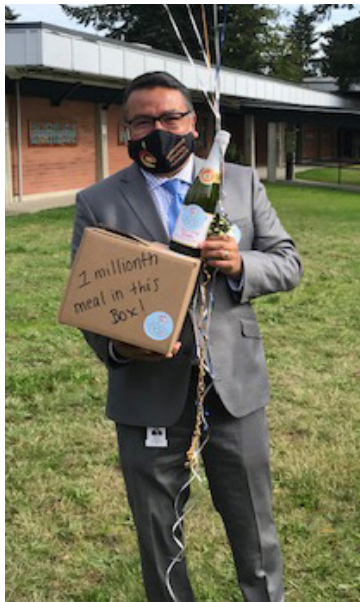
first phase of replacing Spruce Elementary with existing resources. This first phase provided useful facilities for the school including a cafeteria, gym, music room and counseling area.

By completing Phase 1 in September 2019, the district saved approximately \$3 million taxpayer dollars by avoiding construction inflation costs if we had waited a few years to begin the new build.

If voters approve the April 2021 capital levy, Phase 2 (the final phase) of construction would begin spring 2021 and finish by September 2022.

More than **ONE MILLION FREE MEALS** served to kids!

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2020 was a historic day as Superintendent Dr. Balderas handed out the one millionth free meal! Since March 16, 2020, the Edmonds School District's Food and Nutrition Services team has served more than one million free meals to kids in our community.



Apply for meal benefits

We encourage families who qualify, to complete an application for free and reduced meal benefits. The application is tied to school funding and provides other reduced fees for qualifying families. Go to <https://bit.ly/ESDFoodApp> to apply.

Remove school lunch stigma

Free meals provide an opportunity to remove the stigma behind school lunches. The meals are free for all kids regardless of your family's income. If you have not participated in school meals in the past, we invite you to give school meals a try. By picking up school meals you can help normalize school meals and promote them with your neighbors and friends.

Thank you community partners!

The Food and Nutrition Services Department has partnered with the Foundation for Edmonds School District's Nourishing Network throughout the pandemic to add supplemental food items for our highest need students and continue home delivery to those unable to make it to a meal pick up location.

A variety of grants this spring from Albertsons, Safeway, Genyouth, No Kid Hungry and OSPI Child Nutrition provided funds for the district to purchase additional insulated bags to transport food safely for home deliveries, milk coolers to store milk at our curbside meal service locations, and a food truck.

Funding

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is funding the free meals for all kids through next summer. Our school district is reimbursed for each meal we serve. The funding goes right back into covering the food costs and paying school nutrition employees.

Free Grab and Go meal sites

Each meal kit provides kids ages 1-18 with enough food for seven days worth of breakfasts and lunches. Meals are served curbside at our schools and out of our food trucks in community locations. More details:

<https://bit.ly/ESDGrabnGo>



The district's graphic designer, **Brian Craig**, created the food truck design.

Introducing ... the FOOD TRUCK

Have you seen this flashy new food truck rolling around town? Thanks to a Summer Meals for Kids Grant, the Food and Nutrition Services Department was able to purchase the food truck and it hit the road in July 2020.

During the pandemic we are using the food truck to distribute meals at apartment complexes throughout the district. When students return to on-campus instruction we look forward to using the food truck to serve students in a variety of locations and at special events.



SUPPORT STUDENTS
— of Edmonds School District —
WITH EVERY SWIPE!

Insured by NCUA



Foundation for
**Edmonds
School District**

Foundation for Edmonds School District cards available soon! With every swipe, earn unrestricted funds for student programs and activities.

Visit gesa.com/edmonds for more information and request your card today!

Capital Levy

The Edmonds School District is asking voters to consider a funding measure for a capital levy to upgrade, address capacity challenges and improve existing facilities that will foster learning, academic growth, critical thinking, equitable access and overall student success.



Why a capital levy?

Asset preservation:

Maintain what we have by replacing or upgrading:

- Roofs
- Gutters
- Boilers
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems
- Exterior wall improvements
- Fields, playfields and track improvements

Safety, security and accessibility:

- Upgrade fire alarm panels and fire sprinkler systems
- Improve signage, fencing and gates
- District-wide accessibility improvements including automatic door openers

Improve capacity challenges:

- Add building capacity for increased enrollment
- Build covered play sheds for elementary schools

Replace old schools well past their lifespan:

- Spruce Elementary
- Oak Heights Elementary

DID YOU KNOW ...

Capital bonds and levies are the primary funding source to ensure that every student has a safe, optimal learning environment. School districts receive no state or federal funding for improvements to school buildings, and only limited state funding for new construction. The Edmonds School District relies on voter-approved capital bonds and levies to fund school construction and renovations, safety and security upgrades, building systems improvements, and major maintenance. All funds approved by voters in our school district stay in our community.

If the 2021 Capital Levy is approved by voters, it will provide \$30 million per year for each of the next six years.



Edmonds School District Board of Directors



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Superintendent
Dr. Gustavo
Balderas

Comprising five director districts, the Board of Directors conducts the business of the Edmonds School District. The board meets alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Study sessions, at which the board does not vote on matters, are held as needed on alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. During the pandemic, all meetings are held virtually. Check the district calendar for details: <https://bit.ly/ESDcalendar>

NEW! Past school board meetings are available on-demand on the district's YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/EdmondsSD

Edmonds School District News provides school and education information to all the residents of Edmonds School District. For more information about the District, please call the Administration Office at (425) 431-7000 or visit www.edmonds.wednet.edu. To request this newsletter in a different format for people with disabilities please call (425) 431-7045. Board of Directors: Carin Chase, District 1 Legislative Representative; Ann McMurray, District 2; Gary Noble, District 3 Vice President; Deborah Kilgore, District 4 President; Nancy Katims, District 5; Superintendent: Dr. Gustavo Balderas; Writing, Editing: Communications staff; Photography: District and School staff, and Life n Life.



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Edmonds School District does not discriminate in any program or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed religion, color, national origin, age veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or 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: Title IX Coordinator: Debby Carter, Executive Director of Human Resources, 20420 68th Avenue W., Lynnwood, WA 98036, 425-431-7020, carterd@edmonds.wednet.edu; Section 504 Coordinator: Dana Geaslen, Executive Director of Student Services, 20420 68th Avenue W., Lynnwood, WA 98036, 425-431-7047, geaslend338@edmonds.wednet.edu; Civil Rights Compliance and ADA Coordinator: Debby Carter, Executive Director of Human Resources, 20420 68th Avenue W., Lynnwood, WA 98036, 425-431-7023, carterd@edmonds.wednet.edu.

Why am I getting this newsletter? This newsletter is intended to reach all residents in our district including the nearly 70 percent of households without school-age children. We use bulk mailing rather than individually addressing each newsletter because it is the least expensive way to distribute this newsletter.