

Review

Special Levy Edition

R.A. Long's AVID program brings focus on college prep success

Students are being prepared for college more diligently than ever

With a primary focus on career and college readiness for students in the "academic middle," R.A. Long High School introduced the nationally-recognized AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program into its 9th and 10th grades last year.

Students who have good attendance, meet a battery of criteria, have average grades, and have teacher and counselor recommendations are selected to participate in the support program. Once students are accepted into the program, they are highly encouraged

through a variety of supports to stay focused and committed to academic achievement.

AVID students learn time-management and organizational skills, test-taking strategies, as well as the Cornell note-taking system, to help them distill and organize information. AVID teams include teachers from all disciplines and classroom tutors — ranging from college students to peers — who teach students to ask probing questions and learn to answer questions themselves. Students participate in motivational activities that make college seem attainable.

AVID's mission is to ensure that all students will succeed in a rigorous curriculum and complete a college-preparatory path. "95% of students participating in AVID at R.A. Long would be the first in their family to attend

college," explained Rich Reeves, R.A. Long principal. "One of the most impressive and consistent indicators of AVID's success is the rate at which it sends students to four-year colleges," he added. The AVID College Readiness System accelerates student learning

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Longview School District Patrons;

Thank you for taking time to review this Special Levy Edition of **The Longview Review**. You will soon be receiving your ballot for the February 11 Maintenance and Operations and Technology and Capital Project Levies to support student programs and services. I hope this newsletter helps you make an informed choice when you cast your ballots. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need additional information.

The school year has been full of exciting learning opportunities that make a difference every day in the lives of our students. As you are aware, a portion of the past year focused on how we can best address current and future facilities challenges in light of declining enrollment. While this topic is of critical importance — and we will continue to work hard to find a suitable solution — it shouldn't overshadow the quality education offered here in Longview.

It's clear our community is unwavering in its support of schools. The local contribution (through M&O and Technology and Capital Project Levies) is critically necessary to fund student programs, support staff and provide classroom technology that is not covered by the state. In fact, M&O dollars make up 22 percent of the district's overall budget.

"I know that in Longview, our work will continue to benefit all students."

Many might wonder why local dollars are necessary now that Legislature has "made a down payment" on the state's mandate to fully fund education (i.e. the McCleary Decision). Even with the amount we received, it doesn't come close to backfilling all that was cut during the recession. **In fact, we have \$31.79 less per student this year than we had in 2008-2009.**

Overall, Washington state ranks 43rd in per pupil spending. That's simply unacceptable to our future generations of students who deserve a fully-funded public education.

Our work together requires teamwork, collaboration and shared leadership toward common mission, vision, values and goals. I know that in Longview, our work will continue to benefit all students! I take pride in what we are able to accomplish together and I thank you for making Longview the best place to learn, live, grow and prosper!

Sincerely,
Suzanne Cusick, Superintendent



PRAM 2013 Update

Each year the district commits funds to address the capital needs that are identified on the Preservation, Renovation and Modernization (PRAM) list. For this current year the

PRAM projects included: roof work at Mt. Solo Middle School, district-wide paving projects, and district-wide roof fall protection. Just over \$1 million dollars was invested to preserve these important community public assets.

The Longview School District is an Equal Opportunity district in education programs, activities, services, and employment. Longview School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, gender, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, age, families with children honorably discharged veteran or military status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. We provide equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. We also comply with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 402 of the Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Act of 1974, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, Older Worker Protection Act, and all other state, federal, and local equal opportunity

laws. If you have a physical or mental disability that causes you to need assistance to access school facilities, programs, or services, please notify the school principal. The District endeavors to maintain an atmosphere free from discrimination and harassment. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should contact the school principal or one of the following district designees—Rod McHattie, Director of Special Services, (360) 575-7008 (ADA/Students Title VII, 504 and IDEA); or Chris Fritsch, Assistant Superintendent, (360) 575-7003 (ADA/Employees, Affirmative Action, Title IX, Athletic Equity).

For individuals with disabilities, alternate forms of communication with the district or accommodations at school functions may be arranged by calling 575-7009.

Top Levy Facts

WHAT EVERY LONGVIEW CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE UPCOMING LEVY

These levies **replace** the current levies that expire at the end of 2014—they are not additional, new levies. Without voter approval, no levy money can be collected after 2014.



State and federal education dollars do not cover the costs of schools. The levies will continue to support and maintain current day-to-day programs and technology and capital projects

for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. In consideration of taxpayers, the School Board set levy amounts that would keep the estimated tax rate at the current level.

M&O Levy dollars pay for:

- » Instructional materials and technology
- » Staff training and professional development
- » Extracurricular activities such as clubs, band and athletics
- » Teachers, custodians, aides and other staff the state does not fully fund
- » Facilities repairs, maintenance of grounds and utilities

T&C Levy dollars pay for:

- » Both student and teacher computers
- » Wired and WI-FI infrastructure
- » Computer labs
- » Roof and pavement repairs
- » Fire alarm systems and ventilation systems

Maintenance & Operations Levy

CALENDAR YEAR	LEVY RATE*	TOTAL LEVY AMOUNT
EXPIRING LEVY		
2014	\$3.50	\$14,989,000
PROPOSED LEVY		
2015	\$3.50	\$15,129,793
2016	\$3.50	\$15,281,091
2017	\$3.50	\$15,433,902
2018	\$3.50	\$15,588,241

Technology & Capital Projects Levy

CALENDAR YEAR	LEVY RATE*	TOTAL LEVY AMOUNT
EXPIRING LEVY		
2014	\$0.34	\$1,450,000
PROPOSED LEVY		
2015	\$0.34	\$1,477,093
2016	\$0.34	\$1,491,864
2017	\$0.34	\$1,506,783
2018	\$0.34	\$1,521,851

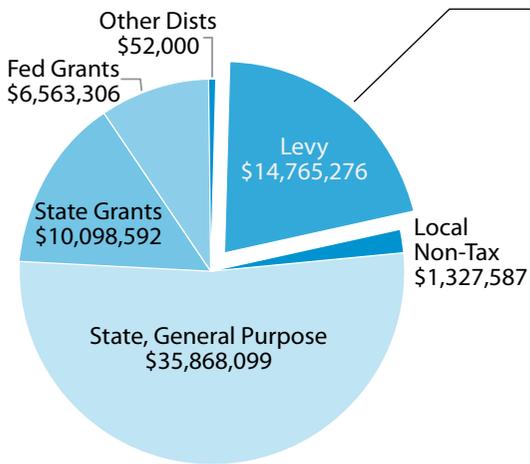
The total amount of taxes to be collected cannot change; the rate can fluctuate depending on the total property valuation of the entire district. The tax rates and total amount of the levy are listed above.

*per \$1,000 assessed property value

Top Levy Facts

WHAT EVERY LONGVIEW CITIZEN SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE UPCOMING LEVY

The 2013-2014 total budget is \$68,674,860.
The M & O levy would continue to provide approximately 22% of support for daily operations.



M & O LEVY SUPPORTED FUNDS	% FUNDS
General Ed. teachers, administrators & other support staff above state funding	40.8
Curriculum & Building Supplies	5.7
Facilities, Safety & Security including salaries and benefits	23.9
Utilities	4.4
Transportation cost above state funding including salaries & benefits	4.4
Extracurricular including salaries & benefits	6.8
Special Education above state funding including salaries & benefits	7.4
Technology software and support salaries & benefits	6.6



VOTER DEADLINES:

- » Ballots will be mailed on or around January 24, 2014.
- » They must be returned to a ballot drop-box or postmarked by February 11, 2014.
- » Over 50 percent of voters must vote "yes" in order to approve these separate levies.

Let's Do the Math!

Olympic Elementary teachers see success in mathematics thanks to targeted strategies

$$35 + 23 = 58$$

When Olympic Elementary's math teachers met at the end of last year to discuss student test scores, they looked at potential areas in which students could benefit from



additional time. "We identified a need for the foundations of number sense [the intuitive understanding of numbers] to be secure for our students to develop further skills in mathematics," said math lead teacher Carrie Bodenhamer. "Building a strong foundation in math in elementary school is essential for student success as they advance. We hoped to target these interventions right away so students have the math skills needed to progress through the math curriculum."

Olympic adjusted the daily schedule so all students would have a common math intervention time this school year. Teachers used district and building data to identify

areas of concern for each child. With this information they built skills groups.

Across the building, staff has dedicated a 30-minute block of time to ensure students work to understand numbers, including their magnitude, relationships and how they are affected by operations.

Students in grades 3-5 meet in groups to focus on the skills they need to learn, not based on their grade level content. One classroom might be working on addition and subtraction while another is targeting multi-digit multiplication and division. One activity 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students participate

in is called "Multiplication Top It!" where students roll dice and compete with each other to find the highest product. This activity, Olympic teachers have found, really strengthens student fluency in single digit multiplication.



Bodenhamer says the new strategy has enabled staff to have more focused discussion about student math achievement. "I am always asking, 'How can I move forward? How can Olympic move forward?'" said Bodenhamer. "With this intervention time, I feel that our students are learning new skills that will help secure the foundations that they need to feel more confident in Mathematics."

A+!

Superintendent Search

In October 2013, Dr. Suzanne Cusick announced her resignation as Superintendent of Longview Public Schools at the end of the 2013-2014 school year. At that time the Longview School Board immediately began planning a superintendent search process. The Board expects to work with a search firm to help with selecting a new superintendent for the district. The search process typically runs in four phases: planning, recruitment, selection, and appointment. The search firm will be gathering community, staff and student input as part of the process.



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and uses research-based methods and effective instruction to provide meaningful and motivational learning.

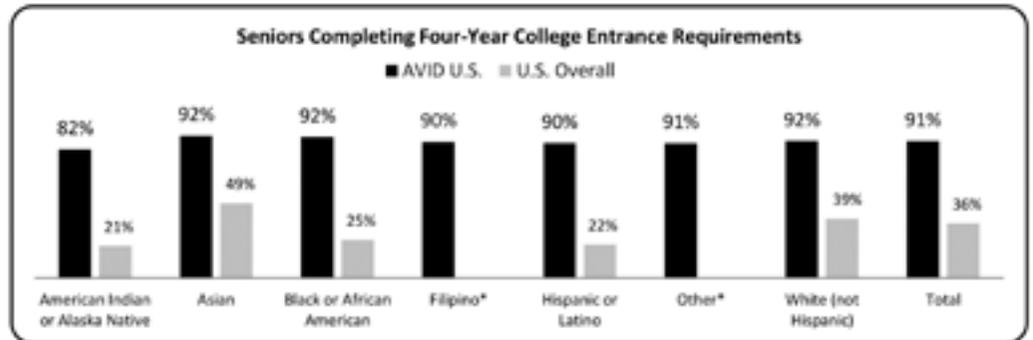
AVID's focus is on the following critical areas: Writing, Inquiry, Collaboration, Organization, and Reading to Learn. This learning model is one that teachers use to help students comprehend concepts

The AVID program teaches students how to study, read for content, take notes, and manage time. Students have the opportunity to participate in collaborative study groups (or tutorials) led by tutors who use skillful questioning to bring students to a higher level of understanding.

and articulate ideas at increasingly complex levels.

"Implementing the AVID program at the secondary level is only the

beginning in Longview," said Reeves. "We hope to eventually see it in our middle schools too."



- AVID Center-AVID Senior Data Collection, Study of 33,204 AVID Seniors (2011-2012)

- (Greene, J. P., & Forster G. (September, 2003). Education working paper no. 3: Public high school graduation and college readiness rates in the United States [White paper]. New York, NY: Manhattan Institute for Policy Research. Retrieved from http://www.manhattan-institute.org/html/cwp_03.htm Most recent national data available) *Filipino and Other not classified in this study

Consider Longview Public Schools Foundation in your charitable giving plans this year

The Longview Public Schools Foundation engages the community and cultivates partnerships to develop resources and match them with our children's needs and dreams:

- » Healthy lifestyles
- » Innovative curriculum

- » Visual and performing arts
- » Technology, math, and science

To invest in our future today...

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