



Spokane Public Schools

# SchoolTalk

## Spokane Public Schools: Stronger Than Ever

90.4%

RECORD HIGH  
GRADUATION  
RATE

80%

OF FAMILIES HIGHLY  
RECOMMEND THEIR  
SCHOOL

FAMILIES RATE  
OVERALL SCHOOL  
QUALITY

4 out of 5



### Bonds & Levies: Building for the Future with a Stable Tax Bill for Citizens

Two measures will be presented to voters on the Feb. 13 ballot: A six-year bond that will fund various capital projects to ensure school safety, modernize aging buildings and plan for growth, and a three-year replacement levy that would fund vital programs, staff and extracurricular activities not fully funded by the state.

The proposed measures will keep property owners' tax bills predictable and stable.

#### What's the Difference?

##### Bond=Building

Bonds fund new or modernized schools and facilities, technology and security system improvements. Bond dollars cannot be used to operate schools. Passage requires at least 60%+ approval.

##### Levy=Learning

Levies fund basic education programs and activities that are not fully funded by the state so we can provide an educational experience that our community has come to expect to meet student needs. Passage requires 50%+ approval.

SCAN HERE

to learn more about  
the Bond & Levy



Learn More Inside

# The 2024 Bond - Planned Projects

spokaneschools.org/2024bond



## Elementary Schools

- Adams Elementary Replacement
- Madison Elementary Replacement
- Balboa Elementary Replacement – Design phase
- Indian Trail Elementary Replacement – Design phase

## Secondary Schools

- Chase Middle School Upgrades for Grades 6-8
- Garry Middle School Modernization and Addition
- North Central High School Modernization of Outdated Section of School

## Options Schools

- Libby Center Upgrades for Option Program Growth
- Spokane Public Montessori Upgrades for Grades 6-8
- The Community School Improvements (Phase 1 planning)

## Building Improvements Throughout the District

- Safety Enhancements
- Technology Improvements
- Facility Upgrades and Repairs



## Feeder Pattern Events Develop Community

To promote a sense of belonging, SPS moved to a feeder pattern model. The majority of students attend elementary school through high school with students they meet during elementary school. Attending school with the same classmates from elementary to high school allows students to develop stronger relationships with their peers and helps school staff to collaborate across grade levels for more effective support of student success.

To enhance community connections, each feeder pattern hosted various events involving families in their respective boundaries this fall. The Lewis & Clark feeder pattern gathered at Sacajawea Middle School for an evening of fun and games before traveling to ONE Spokane Stadium for the LC homecoming football game. At Shadle Park and North Central, families with kids of all ages gathered at the high schools for dancing, games, face painting, and much more while also learning about community resources. The Rogers feeder pattern hosted a trick-or-treat event on Halloween, and the Ferris feeder pattern invited families to explore the school and potential careers at Trades Night.

## ONE Spokane Stadium Saves \$30M, New Middle Schools Complete 2018 Bond

On Sept. 28, our community entered the gates of the new ONE Spokane Stadium where student athletes competed this fall and will continue to compete for generations to come. Thanks to a partnership with the Spokane Public Facilities District to operate the stadium, SPS will save upwards of \$30 million in costs. Also this fall, students on Spokane's south hill walked inside two new middle school buildings. The three projects were the final elements included in the voter approved 2018 bond.

These projects were completed thanks to the community and the City of Spokane.

Talk directly with Spokane Public Schools Board Members & members of the leadership team at the next Coffee with SPS! See a schedule at [spokaneschools.org/coffee](http://spokaneschools.org/coffee).



Sacajawea Middle School



Carla Olman Peperzak Middle School



ONE Spokane Stadium



# The 2024 Replacement Levy

spokaneschools.org/2024levy



## What is a School Levy?

School levies support vital programs, staff, services, activities and experiences that allow Spokane Public Schools to provide a dream, access and opportunity to all students.

The 2024 levy, which replaces the 2021 levy passed by school district voters, is not a new tax and keeps tax bills predictable. The levy would support student programs through 2027.

## What Does a Levy Support?

- Teachers for lower class sizes, Advanced Placement courses and special education
- Counselors, nurses and librarians
- School support staff (custodial, office staff, paraeducators, safety specialists, maintenance and administrative)
- Sports, clubs, music, art, drama and intramural programs
- Curriculum materials, facility services, technology and laptops for students

## SPS Promotes Active and Involved Students

This fall, cross country had a record high participation rate. Nearly 4,000 elementary school students competed in several cross country races across the district, which is even more impressive since this was the first year without sixth graders. This has shown us that students are excited to compete and be a part of an extracurricular activity.

The research is clear: When kids participate in extracurricular activities, there is an improvement in academic performance, better school attendance and positive social developments.

Across the district, there are more than 400 opportunities for students to participate in the arts, a club or sport outside the school day. SPS is continually working to increase offerings and ensure we meet the needs of students, especially at the elementary and middle school level.



## Message from the Superintendent

I am thrilled to share the remarkable achievements and milestones our school district has reached this year. We've seen historic levels of success in student outcomes, reflecting the dedication and collaborative efforts of our entire community.

Our record high graduation rate is a testament to the hard work of students, the support of parents, and the commitment from educators. Parent feedback has been invaluable, and their positive responses reflect the strong partnership we've cultivated between home and school.

I am honored to share that Spokane Public Schools has been named a national "District of Distinction," a recognition that speaks volumes about our exceptional quality of education. This accomplishment is a result of the commitment to excellence demonstrated by our teachers, administrators and support staff.

Our focus on early learning and the development of robust career pathways is paying off, providing our students with the foundation they need for future success. Additionally, we are actively working to ensure that every child has access to engaging extracurricular activities, promoting a healthy alternative to screen time at home. We are fostering a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom, creating opportunities for every student.

As we celebrate these achievements and constantly seek ways to improve, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to the continued growth and success of Spokane Public Schools. Together, we help ensure a dream, access and opportunity is available to our children.

*Dr. Adam Swinyard, Superintendent*



Questions? [spokaneschools.org/letstalk](http://spokaneschools.org/letstalk)

Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate in the admission, treatment, employment, or access to its programs or activities on the basis of age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability, sexual orientation including gender expression or gender identity, or honorably discharged veteran or military status. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/Staff Civil Rights Officer, ADA Officer, Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)/Student Civil Rights Officer and/or 504 Compliance Officer listed on our website at [www.spokaneschools.org/nondiscrimination](http://www.spokaneschools.org/nondiscrimination)

ECRWSS EDDM  
POSTAL CUSTOMER



## Career & Technical Education Programs Welcome More Students

NEWTech Prep is a career and technical learning center for SPS that partners with and offers enrollment to students in 11 area school districts. The school welcomed 897 high school juniors and seniors this fall, an increase of 143 compared to 2022. These students can choose from 18 health sciences, professional services and skilled trades programs.

In September, TC Energy announced a \$49,000 grant for skilled trades students at NEWTech to purchase and expand state-of-the-art equipment for the school's Welding Technology and Energy and Power programs.

"It means a lot because everything costs money," said NEWTech student Josiah Kaiser. "We only have a certain budget, so with these grants, we're able to get more welding rods and wire, and argon and oxygen, and welding machines."

Meanwhile at Glover Middle School, students were introduced to brand new welding equipment in October thanks to a partnership with NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101. Students received introductory welding lessons preparing them for careers in welding and fabrication.

Increasing access and expanding Career and Technical Education programs is a core mission of Spokane Public Schools as we work to prepare our region's future workforce.

## President's Letter

*Happy New Year from the board! I want to express my gratitude for the support of our staff, families and community. Together, we build a stronger Spokane. The board is committed to the 2022-28 strategic plan created with unprecedented and diverse community input. SPS staff actively work to ensure that our classrooms, curriculum and school events help our students feel seen, valued and connected. The strides toward more inclusive teaching practices, while centered on improving outcomes for students with disabilities, help all students access learning. In addition, the district's community partnerships have strengthened our ability to provide students with supportive and equitable learning experiences.*



**Nikki Otero Lockwood,**  
Board President

*As a board member, I've been fortunate to learn so much during my school visits. I often hear of the importance of belonging in our schools. The board's commitment to small class sizes has continued to foster the sharing of ideas and collaboration needed for students to develop a strong sense of belonging.*

*Belonging happens outside the classroom, too. Our goal is to have every student participate in at least one extracurricular activity. Engagement outside the classroom is critical in shaping academic success and the overall school experience. I continue to reflect on the many times students have credited their educational success to support from a caring adult and participation in school activities. I encourage families to learn about the many activities and opportunities available for all students. These activities will foster a sense of belonging, improve attendance and academic achievement, and build upon a foundation of knowledge essential for student success. We hope all current and future SPS students find their community at Spokane Public Schools.*

## 2024-25 K-12 Registration

*K-12 registration is open! Spokane Public Schools is excited to welcome new students for the 2024-25 school year. Learn more at [spokaneschools.org/register](http://spokaneschools.org/register)*

