

**FEBRUARY 10, 2026  
SPECIAL ELECTION**

# **Bond & Levy Information**



**Rich Polkinghorn, Superintendent**

**January 7, 2026**

# Levies are for learning; Bonds are for buildings. School districts need both.

## BONDS



A long-term (10-25 year) voter-approved funding option, similar to a mortgage, that provides money for large capital projects like remodeling schools or building new ones.

## LEVIES



A short-term (2-4 year) voter-approved property tax. An operations levy generates funding for programs and services that the state does not fund or under funds.

# WSVSD has two local funding measures on the February 10 Special Election ballot:

## PROPOSITION 1: Bond

**Bond to Renovate and Replace  
Aging School Buildings**

**Duration: 20 years**

**Estimated Tax Rate: \$1.66**

**Total Amount: \$77.8 million**

## PROPOSITION 2: EP&O Levy

***Renewal* Educational  
Programs & Operations Levy**

**Duration: 3 years**

**Estimated Tax Rate: \$1.61**

**Total Amount: \$4.45 million**

# Proposition 1: Bond



The bond would **modernize aging facilities** and bring all students together on a **single, secure campus**. The proposed one-campus, two-school model (K–6 and 7–12) funded through a 2026 bond approval would **maximize state assistance**.

# A Community-led Process

This project represents years of study, community input, and planning by the Citizens Committee, which unanimously recommended this approach as the most effective, efficient, and future-ready solution for our schools.



**Community  
Members &  
Parents**



**District  
Leaders**



**Supporting  
Consultant  
Firms**



# Maximizing State Construction Assistance

The proposed unified campus project qualifies for about **\$34 million** in state construction assistance, **BUT ONLY IF THE BOND PASSES.**



# Why Now?

Due to declining enrollment trends and how the state calculates construction assistance (SCAP), **if a bond measure does not pass in 2026, the anticipated SCAP value for a future bond will decrease from approximately \$34 million to \$26 million.** This was a critical finding emphasized by the Citizens Committee's finance subcommittee.



# Why a Unified Campus?

Today, district facilities are spread across multiple sites, with several buildings that are decades old and past their serviceable life.

**Maintaining multiple aging facilities, across two separate campuses stretches resources thin.**

The bond focuses on modernizing, consolidating, and creating flexible learning environments that can adapt to the changing needs of students and teachers now and in the future.

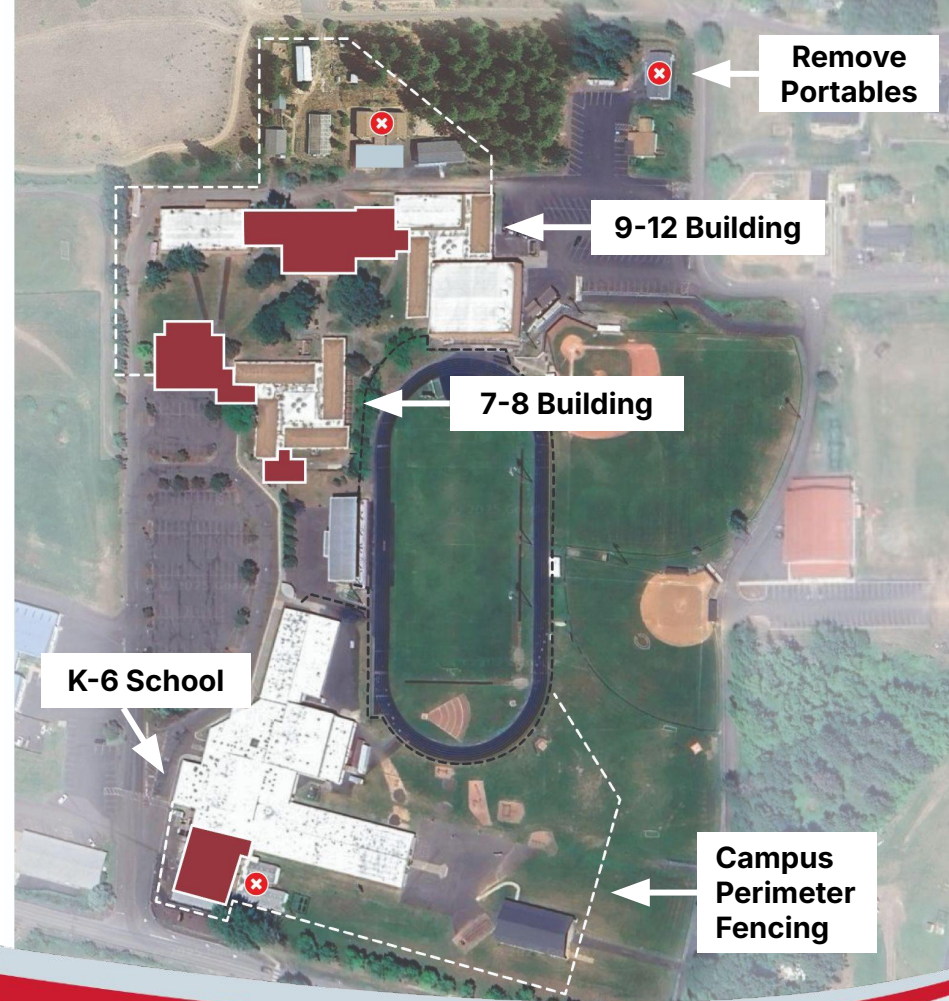




# Proposed Unified K-12 Campus Plan

## GRADES K-6:

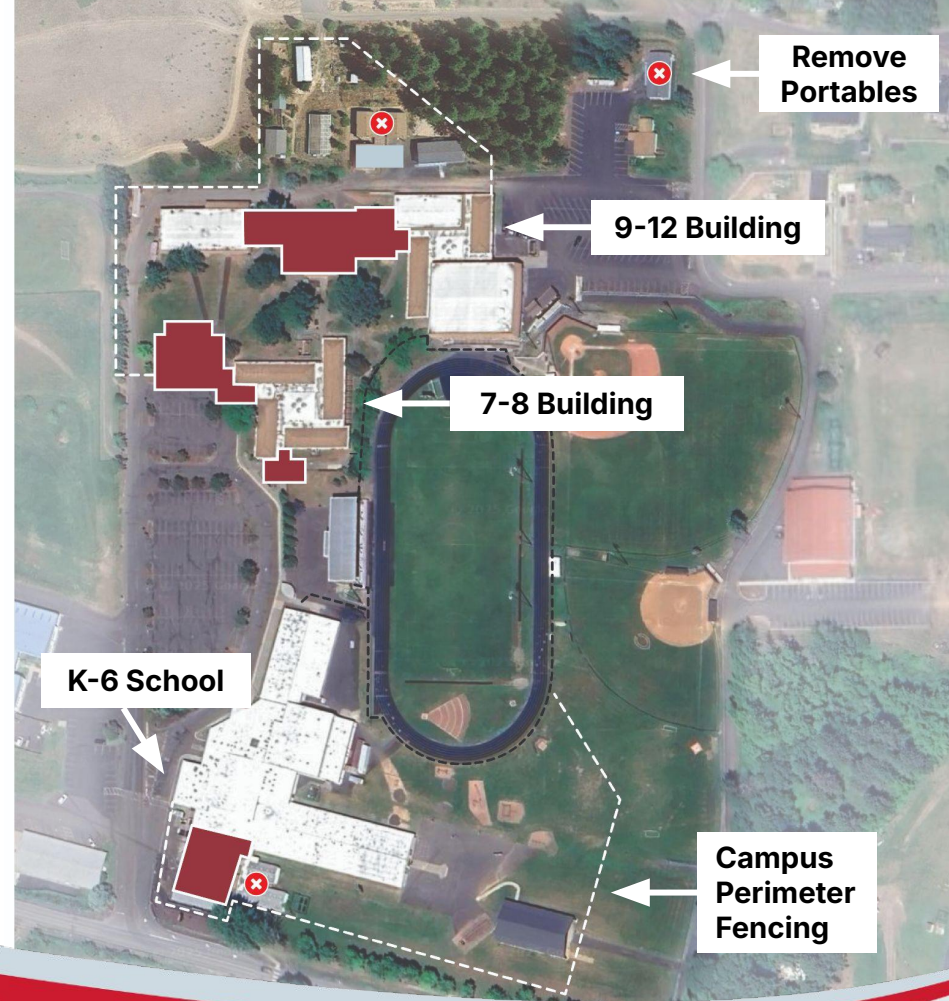
- Located in a remodeled Henkle/Stevenson building
- Removal of portables on south side
- New wing added for kindergarten and specialty learning spaces



# Proposed Unified K-12 Campus Plan

## GRADES 7-8:

- Located in a remodeled CHS building A
- Gym addition on west side
- Small addition on south side of two classrooms

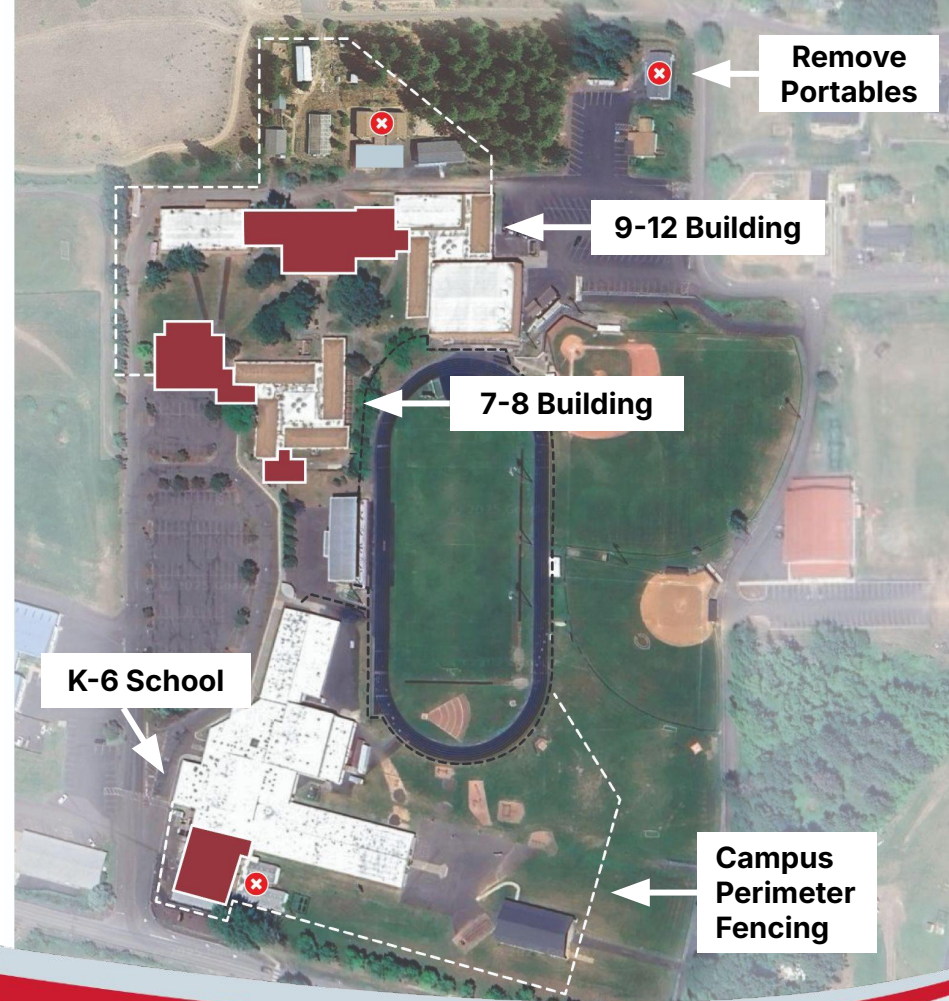




# Proposed Unified K-12 Campus Plan

## GRADES 9-12:

- Full remodel of existing high school campus
- Large addition connects separate buildings
- Removal of three portables



# Key Project Elements



## **SAFETY & SECURITY**

Upgraded surveillance, access controls, and perimeter fencing to enclose the new K-12 Campus.

# Key Project Elements



## IMPROVED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Modernized learning spaces that meet the needs of the students of today.

# Key Project Elements



## REDUCED COSTS & REALIZED EFFICIENCIES

The one-campus, two-school model (K–6 and 7–12) improves operational efficiency by enabling resource sharing across grade levels, reducing duplication, and creating collaboration opportunities that weren't possible with separate, outdated facilities.

In a preliminary analysis, we have identified more than **\$500,000** in potential operational efficiencies that could be realized and reinvested back into our students and schools if the bond passes.

# Key Project Elements



## ACCESSIBILITY

ADA-compliant entries, restrooms, and circulation routes for full inclusion of all community members.

# Key Project Elements

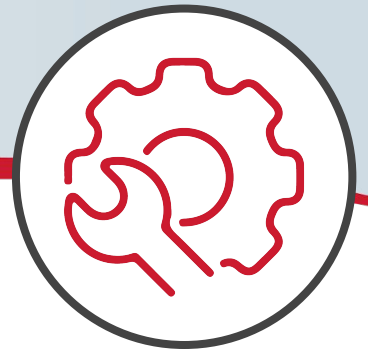


## COMMUNITY SPACES

Improved performing arts, playgrounds and athletic spaces that can serve both students and the broader community year-round.



# Key Project Elements



## **DECADES SINCE LAST FACILITY UPDATES**

It has been over three decades since White Salmon Valley School District made a significant investment in our buildings. Students are learning in outdated buildings that are beyond their serviceable life.

# Key Project Elements



## DECADES SINCE LAST FACILITY UPDATES

Columbia Center  
School & Park  
Center buildings  
constructed

White Salmon  
Elementary School  
(Now Whitson  
Elementary) constructed

Henkle Middle School  
constructed

Columbia High  
School constructed

Henkle Middle  
School 7/8 wing and  
gymnasium  
constructed

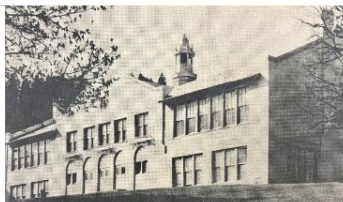
**1937**

**1949**

**1960**

**1970**

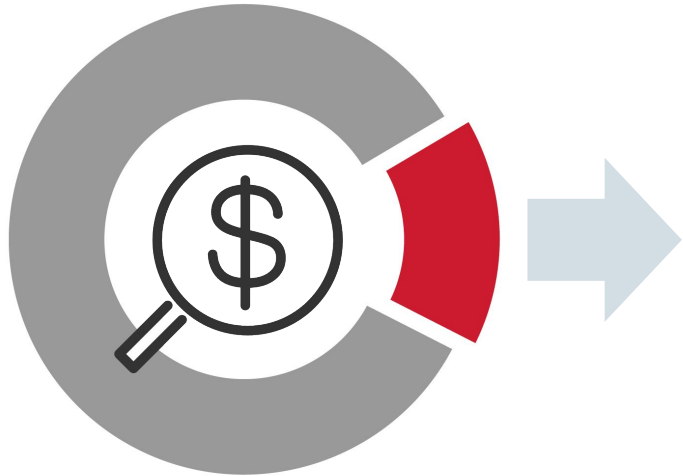
**1987**



# Proposition 2: EP&O Levy Renewal



The EP&O Levy is **not a new tax**—it's a renewal of existing local funding that expires in 2026.



Our local EP&O Levy provides **16%** of our district's total operating budget.

# Our EP&O Levy Supports:

- Teachers
- Support staff
- Curriculum
- Teaching materials



# Our EP&O Levy Supports:

- Student nutrition
- Health & Wellness Center Staff





# Our EP&O Levy Supports:

- Athletics
- Music
- Extracurriculars
- After-school programs



# Bond & Levy Cost Information

We are sensitive to local property owner costs. To avoid escalating tax rates too much, **the district will not seek renewal of the existing Capital Projects Levy, which expires in 2026.**

If both the EP&O levy renewal and the bond pass, the total school tax rate for a property owner in 2027 is projected to be **\$3.44 per thousand assessed property value.**

Year	2019 Bond Rate	EP&O Levy Rate*	Capital Levy Rate	2025 Bond Rate*	Total Tax Rate*
2026	\$0.20	\$1.51	\$0.48	\$0.00	\$2.19
2027	\$0.17	\$1.61	\$0.00	\$1.66	\$3.44
2028	\$0.17	\$1.60	\$0.00	\$1.66	\$3.43
2029	\$0.16	\$1.59	\$0.00	\$1.66	\$3.41

*Future tax rates are estimates based on current trends.*



# Tax Exemptions are Available

Senior and disabled citizens who meet certain income requirements may be exempt from part or all of local school levy taxes.

For more information, or to find out if you qualify for a property tax exemption, please contact your county assessor:

**Skamania:** 509-427-3720

**Klickitat:** 509-773-3715





# February 10, 2026 Special Election

Voting Period: January 23 – February 10

Online Registration Deadline: February 2

In-person Registration Deadline: February 10

***Is your voter registration  
and address up-to-date?***

Check your  
registration:



# Questions?

(Scan the code to learn  
more on our website.)



Thank you for coming!

