

## Where do our schools get their money?

From four sources:

- About 69% from the state
- About 19% from local school district taxpayers
- About 10% from the federal government
- About 2% from other school districts and entities for grants and services



Call 667-6365 for information on tax exemptions.

## How do schools get "local" money?

Through tax levy and bond issues. Both are approved by the voters and are based upon local property valuations. Property owners pay a set amount for each \$1,000 of their property values. Once approved, levy and bond amounts cannot be increased. When community property values increase, the amount paid per \$1,000 decreases. There are exemptions for senior citizens who meet income requirements.

## What do federal funds pay for?

The amount and program designation varies from district to district depending on the needs of the students. Typically, federal dollars supplement vocational programs and special education programs, strengthen educational programs under the No Child Left Behind Act and Bilingual programs and help pay for breakfast and lunch services.

**LAKE CHELAN  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

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**LAKE CHELAN  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## Do you know how your public schools are funded?



**Dr. Jim Busey,  
Superintendent**

## Why are voters asked to approve Maintenance & Operations or Program Levies so often?

By law, M & O tax levies can only be proposed for a maximum of four years. Public school districts may choose to run levy ballots for one, two, three or four years. However, after the allotted amount of years, the levy expires, similar to a magazine subscription. Districts must go back to their voters and ask for a continuation, or renewal, of tax levy dollar support.

Generally, the tax levy you are voting on simply replaces one that is about to expire.

## Can public school districts propose a tax levy for any amount they wish?

No. Districts are limited and can only ask for a maximum amount of 24% of their state (and some federal) allocated revenues. This is commonly known as the Levy Lid.

*Exception: 91 of the state's 296 school districts are "grandfathered" at a higher Levy Lid rate and are allowed by law to raise between 24% and 34% in local money.*

## What is the difference between a bond and a levy and what do they pay for?

Levy money and bond money are intended to meet different but important student needs. Below is an outline of what levies and bonds are typically allowed to fund.

### **Tax Levies:**

By law, school districts can only run a tax levy for a maximum of four years. Many school districts choose to run two or three year levies, especially if they are a growing district and are uncertain of the impacts of growth on their student enrollment. Here's a list of programs and services that a tax levy typically funds:

- Supplemental funding for teachers' salaries for additional time
- Additional teaching staff
- Additional funding for textbooks and curriculum training
- Funding of student athletics and co-curricular activities
- Additional funding for building and grounds maintenance
- Funding of technology
- Additional funding for special educational and highly capable education
- Additional funding for new buses and cost of transportation program

## What is the difference between a bond and a levy and what do they pay for?

### **Bonds:**

A bond is financed over a long period of time, generally 12 to 20 years and is comparable to your home mortgage. Upon their sale, bonds provide immediate funds for:

- New schools
- Acquisition of property
- Capital projects, such as modernization of schools

*Bond dollars may not, by law, pay for the day-to-day costs of running a school district.*

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