

Focus on Schools

The Colfax community working together for kids

Winter 2019-20 • Colfax School District • 1207 N. Morton Street, Colfax, WA 99111 • 509-397-3042

Questions and answers:

Upcoming Educational Programs and Operations Levy

On February 9, 2020, the Colfax School District will ask voters to replace an expiring two-year Educational Programs and Operations levy that was approved in 2018. This document provides basic information and answers frequently asked questions about the levy.

Why is it called a replacement levy? The school district typically requests levy assistance from voters every two years. The last levy, approved in 2018, expires in 2020. The new levy is a replacement covering the next two-year period through 2022.

What will the levy support? The levy will support a host of functions and activities that are not fully funded by the state. The list includes: additional staff and student support, student clubs, jazz and concert bands, choir, drama productions, field trips, Knowledge Bowl and technology.

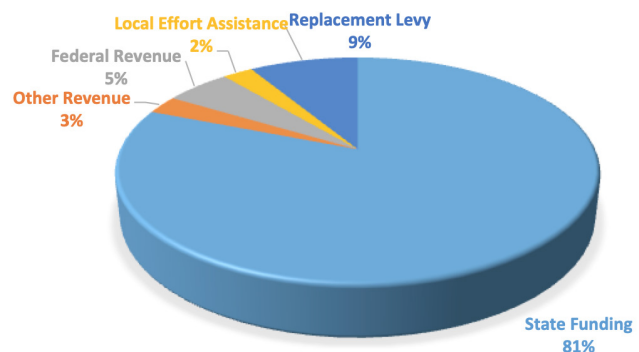
How much money will the levy raise? The proposed levy amounts will raise \$900,000 in 2021 and 2022. Equally important, passage of the levy will qualify the district for state matching funds beyond the basic state apportionment. These matching funds, known as local effort assistance (LEA), are estimated at \$152,000 in 2021 and \$185,000 in 2022.

How much of the district budget comes from levy funding? Levy funds, together with state matching monies, total about 11 percent of the total district budget (9 percent from the levy; 2 percent in matching funds).

Is levy passage required to receive the state matching funds? Yes.

How much will it cost – per \$1,000 of assessed valuation? 2021 (estimate): \$1.97; 2022 (estimate): \$1.91. For the owner of a \$100,000 home, your annual tax payment would be \$197 in 2021; \$191 in 2022.

COLFAX SCHOOL DISTRICT REVENUE SOURCES
TOTAL BUDGET: \$7.98 MILLION



Principally speaking

From Jennings Elementary Principal Travis Howell ...

It has been an exciting fall at Jennings Elementary. We have such an amazing group of educators, students, staff, volunteers and families that make every day such a pleasure to be here. I am also thankful for a community that supports our schools and makes the educational experience of our students one of the best in the state.

The 2019-2020 school year has been the first for our newly adopted science curriculum. It has been exciting to watch our students explore STEM-related lessons through engaging, hands-on activities within our Mystery Science, Generation Genius and STEMscope programs.

From our kindergarteners learning force and motion, to fourth-graders designing models of the human eye, to our sixth graders exploring the structure of cells, dynamic growth surrounds us. Our fifth-graders, meanwhile, have made us one of Washington's top-performing schools in state science testing.

Our Jennings students also experience state-of-the-art STEM programming through connections with our Whitman County Library and Schweitzer Engineering. Thanks to these two community partners and the support of our greater Colfax community, we have been able to purchase and provide experiences with Ozobot robotic coding, computer coding and 3D printing.

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Principally speaking *(continued)*

Jennings also was a recipient of a grant providing math games in all classrooms that have led to higher-level thinking and student engagement in mathematics.

This fall also highlighted the opening of our newly renovated gymnasium that has already hosted our third- and fourth-grade musical, which sounded wonderful with the new sound system. We also hosted an assembly featuring a former Harlem Globetrotter and world record holder, Corey the Dribbler, who shared a great message on character and hard work.

Thank you to the staff, students, families and Colfax community making up our Jennings TEAM. Your commitment and support provides our students a top-quality education that will prepare them for lifetime success. Thank you and Go Bulldogs!

From Colfax Junior/Senior High School Principal David Gibb ...

It has been a busy start to the 2019-20 school year for Colfax Junior/Senior High School, with construction, athletics and clubs all happening at a high level.

Construction is moving along; phases I and II are almost complete. The auditorium is scheduled to be finished in January and should be quite a beautiful site when it is all done.

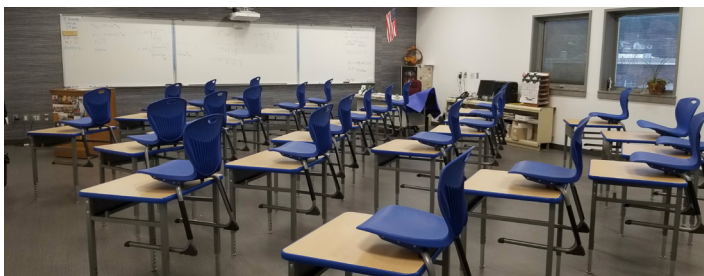
The Career and Technical Education Department sent a group of students to FFA Nationals and earned a 7th place standing, while the FFA Soils Team recently won the state championship and will compete at Nationals in May.

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) and Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) are set to begin their competition season very soon.

Academically, all four fall sport teams won state Academic Awards, with boys cross country and football winning the Academic State Championships. On November 9, the high school cross country program competed at the State Cross Country Meet in Pasco with the girls finishing 9th and the boys placing 12th.

Volleyball competed in the State Tournament in Yakima and beat Kittitas/Thorp for 7th place. The girls played hard and it was fun to watch them compete. Football battled Toledo on November 16 in Colfax and fell in the first round of the state playoffs. Junior high sports are also off and running with girls basketball and football completing their seasons. Junior high boys basketball is off to a strong start and competed well into December.

All in all, it has been a great start at Colfax Junior/Senior High School and we, as a staff, look forward to continuing our momentum into the new year.



Junior/Senior High School remodeling on track: This classroom and science lab are already complete.



With new seating installed, the newly renovated junior/senior high school auditorium is nearing completion.

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