

FRAMING THE FUTURE



LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

YEAR IN REVIEW



Dr. Chip Kimball
Superintendent

Lake Washington School District Board of Directors



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*Date first elected or appointed
to date current term ends.

The 2007-08 school year began with a new superintendent and revival of an old tradition – a district-wide picnic, bringing together all staff members just before the start of the new school year. Dr. Chip Kimball, the new superintendent, addressed the assembled teachers, secretaries, custodians and others at Lake Washington High School. He spoke of his own experience in high school, where he grew bored at a large school where he did not feel challenged or connected to anyone. Kimball spoke of the need to ensure that students are connected in some way to at least one adult in the school, for students to feel valued at that school and to challenge those students to do their best work.

Kimball visited schools around the district and thought about how fast things are changing in the lives of these students. He realized that the kindergarteners in 2007-08 are the class of 2020. Thinking about how fast things have changed in the last 20, 10 or even five years, he grew concerned that the current school system would not be able to keep up with their need to be prepared for the world of 2020.

From these concerns grew the beginnings of Vision 2020, the district's program to transform our schools for students so they are prepared to thrive in the 21st century. While the initial focus was on junior high and high school, those efforts can only be successful if elementary education supports the same goals. Our students can't expect a 19th or 20th century education system to equip them to face the 21st century world.

While Vision 2020 will be a multi-year program, the work begun in 2007-08 framed the future for system-wide changes. A staff team gathered and reviewed work that experts and organizations are doing around the kinds of skills needed now and in the future. They are reviewing the skills and knowledge needed in preparation for a review of the district's Student Profile, the set of knowledge and skills that students should attain after a K-12 education in our district. New guiding principles describe the learning environment that will be required.

The district's board of directors held sessions to listen to the community around the future of Lake Washington education. They held listening sessions known as "linkages" with parents of students in kindergarten through second grade as well as with parents of current high school students. These sessions helped the board and staff members understand what parents want for their students from a Lake Washington education. They also revealed how parents view what current students are getting from their experience. Sessions with high school students brought insights into what current students believe is working and what is not about the current system.

The work done in 2007-08 began the process to create a clear picture of a 21st century education for Lake Washington. It has resulted, in August 2008, in a new vision statement: *Every Student Future Ready. Prepared for college, prepared for the global workplace, prepared for personal success.*

While this work began well before the current financial climate, the planning and analysis work continues in 2008-09. Given the economic outlook at this time, long-term changes will require a careful look at cost, potential funding sources and creative ways to reach these goals within budget constraints.

DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

Enrollment	23,722	Number of Classroom Teachers	1,477
Number of schools	49	Average Years of Teaching Experience	13.1
Male	52.0%	Teachers with at Least a Masters Degree	59.4%
Female	48.0%	Unexcused Absence	0.1%
American Indian	0.6%	Annual Dropout Rate	2.4%
Asian	14.7%	On-Time Graduation Rate	90.0%
Black	2.4%		
Hispanic	6.7%		
Pacific Islander	0.2%		
White	72.3%		
Free or reduced price meals	11.4%		
Special Education	10.8%		
Transitional bilingual	4.5%		

BY THE NUMBERS

- 23,722 students received 10,000 teacher hours of instruction per day
- 93.4% on-time graduation rate from the four comprehensive high schools
- 7,900 students ride buses each day, over 1.5 million miles per year
- 14,000 meals served each day, over 2.5 million meals per year
- 3.2 million square feet of building space to maintain
- \$82,000 donated by district staff to the United Way, to help our community
- 23 teachers achieved National Board Certification in 2007, the highest professional certification a teacher can obtain
- #17, International Community School's rank in the U.S. News & World Report ranking of the top 100 high schools in the country
- 16 elementary schools participated in the "Battle of the Books"
- 195 capital projects completed
- 5 students named Washington Scholars
- 4 students received National Merit Scholarships, among 2500 nationwide
- 11 students selected to sing in the 2008 Northwest American Choral Directors Association Honor Choir
- 71.1 percent of 2006 graduates went on to college (latest year available)
- 1,131 community comments or survey responses concerning the Sammamish plateau elementary school boundary process

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Anisha Gulabani, a senior at **Eastlake High School**, was one of 139 Presidential Scholars for 2008. Presidential Scholars are chosen by the U.S. Department of Education for demonstrating outstanding academic achievements, artistic excellence, leadership, citizenship, service and contributions to school and community. Presidential Scholars were honored in Washington, D.C., from June 21-24.

Juanita High School Teacher **Mary Glodowski** and 98 other secondary math and science teachers were honored at the White House with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching for 2007. Glodowski was the Washington state honoree for science.

Five students from **Redmond High School** earned the 2007 President's Environmental Youth Award for Region 10, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The students — **Zach Doleac, Emily Guo, Joseph Hegge, Jamie Hall, and Laura Wang** — created the "Cool School Campaign" in an effort to reduce the amount of carbon dioxide generated in the classroom through transportation, recycling, electricity and heating.

Eastlake High School biology teacher **William Monahan** won the 2008 Washington Outstanding Biology Teacher Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Mann Elementary School and **Alcott Elementary School** were honored as two of 86 "Schools of Distinction" in the 2007 State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Awards for dramatic improvements in student reading and mathematics. Eight district schools received honorable mentions: **Audubon Elementary, Evergreen Junior High, Finn Hill Junior High, Kamiakin Junior High, Kirkland Junior High, McAuliffe Elementary, Redmond Junior High** and **Rose Hill Junior High**.

STUDENT LEARNING

While work on framing the future began at the district level with Vision 2020 (see Year in Review), Lake Washington High School took a faster track to changes in their school. A look to the recent past shows that district graduates are increasingly attending college.

College attendance rates

The district's mission states that "Each student will graduate prepared to lead a rewarding, responsible life as a contributing member of our community and greater society." Central to that mission is the word graduate. But what happens after graduation? Are Lake Washington students going on to college or other post-secondary training? As jobs increasingly require some kind of training after high school, the district wanted to know.

Data from the National Student Clearinghouse show that as of November of 2007, over 70 percent of students who graduated from the district in the class of 2006 were enrolled in college. Students were enrolled in 470 different two- and four-year colleges and universities. The majority, 64 percent, attend in-state institutions. The largest single group, 1043 students, attended the University of Washington at that time. The overall gain in college enrollment rate from the class of 2002 is 18 percent.

Secondary Social Studies Adoption

Each curriculum area is on a timeline to be reviewed every eight to 10 years. At the May 5 Board meeting, a new social studies curriculum was adopted for secondary schools (grades seven through 12). The Secondary Social Studies Adoption Committee spent two years reviewing the state requirements in social studies, available curricula and deter-

mining the set of materials that best met this district's needs. The materials were on display at the district's Resource Center for parents to examine. The Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) voted to accept all of the committee's recommendations, with the exception of the grade 12 AP Government book. The selected text was later replaced with another due to concerns over bias. The district's board of directors approved all of the IMC recommendations. These new texts were purchased for use beginning in 2008-09.

Changes begin at Lake Washington High School

Lake Washington High School (LWHS) began looking at best practices in high school education as work began on Vision 2020 with a more urgent goal. Their school building is being rebuilt with a new facility opening in the fall of 2011. If the building needs substantive changes to support a new way of teaching or grouping high school students, now is the best time to make those changes.

Lake Washington High School staff took an extensive look at models from school districts across the country that are rethinking their systems and teaching practices. After this research, they settled on a model of grouping students into four houses within the school. Students will stay in their house for core classes while they may take electives in other houses. This system enables teachers to get to know students better as they teach them in core classes throughout their high school career. Students will have a place where they belong and a group of teachers and other students they will get to know well.

The design for the replacement building reflects the school's planned changes in educational practice. Each house will be placed in a wing of the building, with classrooms designed for core classes grouped around a shared instructional space. Classrooms for electives are placed closer to the center of the building and are more accessible for students from other houses. See the district Web site (www.lwsd.org) for a section on the changes at LWHS. While LWHS is leading the way, all district schools are engaged in reframing their futures through Vision 2020.



Rockwell Elementary Principal Tina Livingston working with students.

ASSESSMENT

*Subject not tested

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)	Reading			Math			Writing			Science		
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
3rd Grade	82	83	86	83	83	84	*	*	*	*	*	*
4th Grade	88	88	85	75	80	70	77	82	82	*	*	*
5th Grade	85	83	89	76	78	81	*	*	*	59	60	72
6th Grade	82	81	82	72	72	70	*	*	*	*	*	*
7th Grade	78	85	78	70	76	72	83	86	87	*	*	*
8th Grade	83	80	78	70	71	76	*	*	*	67	70	73
10th Grade	92	92	90	71	75	72	92	93	93	59	61	62

WASL District-wide

Lake Washington School District (LWSD) students continue to perform well on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Scores were significantly higher than state averages in every grade and subject tested. The district continues to shine in writing and science. All three grades tested in science showed gains. All three grades tested were higher than last year's writing scores. Math and reading scores rose in some grades and fell in others.

The class of 2009 is well on its way to meeting the WASL graduation requirement. Just over 90 percent (90.3) have passed both the reading and writing portions of the WASL. Those students need only continue to pass a math course and take a math assessment (WASL, SAT, ACT) in order to meet the WASL testing requirements for graduation. Close to 80 percent (79.2 percent) have already passed the math WASL. All high schools in the district have identified which individual students still have one or more sections of the WASL to complete and are providing them support to meet the requirements through the WASL or an alternative.

AP Tests

More students than ever are taking Advanced Placement tests while the passing rate remains high. In 2007-08, more than 2,000 AP exams were taken by district students, with a pass rate of 80 percent.

Advanced Placement	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Enrollment	2,110	2,358	2,396
Exams Taken	1,467	1,664	2,060
Passed	76%	80%	80%

SAT/ACT Tests

District students continue to score well on standardized tests used for college admissions. While national and state mean SAT scores for college-bound seniors dipped in 2007, LWSD seniors scored higher on all three tests: critical reading, writing and mathematics. The percent of students in the district taking the SAT dropped slightly, from 72 percent to 71 percent. District students continue to score well above state and national averages. The largest increase came in math scores.

While national mean scores for college-bound seniors dipped in 2008, LWSD students scored higher on all four ACT tests (English, Mathematics, Reading and Science). At the same time, the number of LWSD students taking the test increased slightly.

SAT	2006		2007		2008	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
Reading	547	527	552	526	555	526
Math	562	532	563	531	570	533
Writing	541	511	542	510	545	509

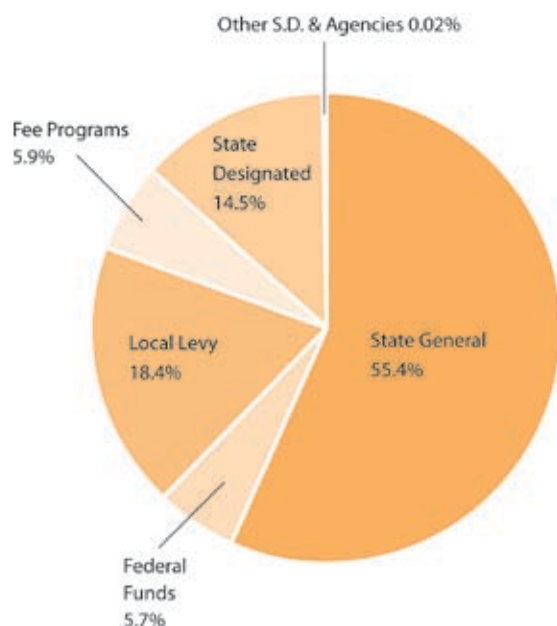
ACT	2006		2007		2008	
	District	State	District	State	District	State
English	24.5	22.4	24.4	22.7	24.6	22.7
Math	24.8	22.7	24.6	23.0	24.8	23.2
Reading	25.2	23.6	24.9	23.7	25.3	23.7
Science	24.0	22.4	23.9	22.6	24.3	22.4
Composite	24.8	22.9	24.6	23.1	24.9	23.1

Percentage of Students taking SAT and ACT			
	2006	2007	2008
SAT	74%	72%	71%
ACT	22.9%	22.8%	23.6%

BUDGET SUMMARY

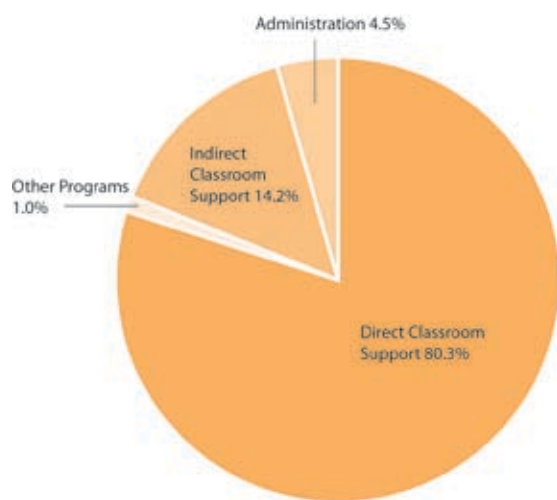
REVENUES 2007-2008

(where the money comes from)



EXPENDITURES 2007-2008

(where the money goes)



Maintaining fiscal discipline is imperative for Lake Washington School District's future. For 2007-08, revenues were slightly higher than expenses, resulting in a small increase in the ending fund balance. The district's Board-endorsed goal is to maintain a five percent fund balance to ensure district fiscal stability. That goal has been achieved for another year.

After budget cuts in 2006-07, the district was able to maintain services without significant reductions for 2007-08. The number of students attending school in the district remained stable. The total dropped by just 77 students to 23,722. State basic education funding calculations, among other funding sources, use student counts in determining the amount of money to provide the district.

State funding has continued in a pattern of providing less of its funding in unrestricted dollars and more in designated funds that can only be used for specific purposes. The state continues to provide the bulk of school funding, at 69.9 percent of the 2006-07 revenues. However, state general funding fell from 56.9 percent of the district's budget in 2006-07 to 55.4 percent in 2007-08. At the same time, state designated funds rose from 13.1 percent of the district's budget in 2006-07 to 14.5 percent in 2007-08. The result is less flexibility for the district in paying for specific needs.

The district continues to be among the lowest funded school districts in the state. Lake Washington ranks 258 out of 296 districts in the state in revenues. The district is limited by state law in how it raises money and how much it can collect through local levies for operating funds. As a result, this district must be deliberate and careful in determining funding use. The district's philosophy is to keep the classroom a priority. The district's percent of funding going to teaching is 72 percent, compared to a 69 percent state average. The district's expenses for central administration are just four and a half percent, significantly lower than the seven percent state average.

The Washington State Auditor's Office Accountability Audit Report issued in May 2008 found that the district complied with state laws and regulations and its own policies and procedures. Washington State Auditor's Office Financial Statements and Federal Single Audit Report, also issued in May 2008, found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses with regard to financial statements or federal awards.

ALL FUNDS 2007-2008	General	Associated Student Body	Debt Service	Capital Projects	Transportation Vehicle Fund
Beginning Fund Balance	10,051,071	1,033,222	9,060,606	96,444,479	1,868,175
Revenues	202,039,282	3,465,000	29,815,985	119,989,463	718,428
Expenditures	201,060,865	3,746,568	33,221,506	72,605,767	588,214
Ending Fund Balance	11,029,488	751,654	5,655,085	143,828,175	1,998,389

FACILITIES

For the first time in several years, no new schools or modernized schools opened in 2007-08. Instead, considerable planning work was done, a new elementary school was built for a fall 2008 opening, and work began on two schools that will be modernized. In addition, capital levy dollars helped the district with projects that reduce costs as well as ensure code compliance and address safety concerns.

The facilities staff continues to seek ways to conserve energy and reduce maintenance in its modernization and facilities projects. Energy conservation is environmentally friendly at the same time that it saves the district operating costs. For example, light fixtures and ballasts were switched out this year with more energy efficient models, reducing electricity use and cost for years to come. Many of the efforts to reduce maintenance, like polished concrete floors or use of carpet tiles, are also environmentally friendly and save the district labor costs.

On the Sammamish plateau, the school that has been named after environmentalist and educator Rachel Carson was built, for opening in the fall of 2008. That meant neighborhood school boundaries in the area had to be redrawn. A new public process involving significant input through Web surveys helped the district balance the needs of specific neighborhoods in determining which students would go to the new school.

Planning for Lake Washington High School resulted in work beginning at the end of the school year. The new Lake Washington High School will feature a geothermal heat pump system, as does the new Rachel Carson Elementary and Redmond High School. This past summer, construction crews dug holes for the pipes for the geothermal system. Demolition of the old shop buildings and site preparation ensure that work on the new building will take place in spring 2009, with a fall 2011 opening planned.

Ground was broken at Frost Elementary at the end of the school year. Groundwork to prepare the site continued last summer. The new Frost Elementary, which is being built behind the old building, will open in the fall of 2009.

Superintendent Chip Kimball with Principal Sue Anne Sullivan and student leaders at Frost Elementary ground breaking.



Perspective drawing of new Lake Washington High School building, scheduled to be completed in 2011. Courtesy of McGranahan Architects.

TECHNOLOGY

Lake Washington School District is fortunate to have a technology-savvy community, which regularly supports a technology levy. As a result, our classrooms are equipped with interactive white boards, digital projectors and document cameras as well as computers. That means every teacher can project computer screen information, including access to the Internet, to the class. Many lessons are now being presented through interactive computer technology, engaging students in learning in a new way.

Students preparing for the future and their teachers need access to up-to-date computer equipment. Computers continue to be replaced in our schools on a rotating basis with each computer upgraded every five years. In 2007-08, 6,500 new computers replaced old ones used by teachers and students, thanks to the funds raised by the technology levy.

Parents need access to information to support their student's education. Last year, the district improved Parent Access, the parent information Web portal, by adding Webgrader for the secondary schools. Now, parents of junior high and high school students can check their students' grades regularly online. Some teachers have reported a decrease in D's and F's in their classes as parents can track student performance from the beginning of each term and intervene when low grades begin to show up. That parent/school partnership can be vital to a student's success.



The district's Web team completed work on the district's new award-winning Web site at the beginning of last year and spent the year preparing for new school Web sites. The team designed and developed templates to allow each school in the district to create their own site with their school colors and mascot as well as their own content. These new sites, debuting in the fall of 2008, allow easier and more frequent updating, so that parents can get current information from their student's school.

Lake Washington School District
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Safety Tip line: (866) LIVE-TIP/(866) 548-3847
www.lwsd.org

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