

# Kitsap Sun

**LETTERS | Opinion** *This piece expresses the views of its author(s), separate from those of this publication.*

## Students need your support now more than ever

**Gerry Austin, Port Orchard**

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The last year has been an epic challenge for all of us, but particularly so for our schools. Developing methods for remote learning on the fly, finding new ways to engage struggling students, and quickly learning new technologies have been remarkable achievements that are easily missed in the chaos of COVID. From keeping children fed through meal pickups, to creating strategies to return to in-person learning, our school districts have exceeded what many thought would be possible.

Thanks for our voters approving levies in the past, our districts had the tools and flexibilities needed to quickly pivot to an entirely new method of teaching. Bainbridge and South Kitsap school districts are asking voters to renew these important levies this year. Our students need fully functioning schools more than ever right now, especially as they return to classrooms. In South Kitsap, the levy provides 15% of the budget, and fully funds staff positions like nurses, custodians, counselors, and music teachers.

COVID has already done enough harm to our kids and our community, let's not make it worse by voting to defund schools. Renew the Levy. Vote Yes.

*Gerry Austin, Port Orchard*