

Kitsap Sun

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Levy funds are essential for opportunities

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I encourage you to support the South Kitsap School District Levy, so our students have access to essential services and staff. Did you know the state only funds 1.43 nurses, 0.25 school psychologists, and 0 music teachers for our entire district? Our community values educating the whole child — academically, socially, and emotionally. This cannot happen without levy funds, which make up 15% of the district's operating budget.

As a mother of two daughters in SK schools I am reminded daily of their opportunities because our community supported our children's growth. This includes violin, theatre, AP and AVID classes, Key Club, Bowling and Volleyball. Leadership opportunities including Junior Librarians and ASB. Enrichment programs support our children's growth beyond academics. They develop self-esteem, confidence, collaboration and leadership skills. I am reminded of increased levels of teacher support as class sizes were reduced and maintenance to aging buildings, including roof repairs where buckets sat every day of fourth grade on their classroom floor.

The renewal of the educational programs and operations levy passed in 2017 is essential to our students and the community's success. It must be renewed every 4 years. This is not a new tax. Our local tax rate will stay the same, capped at \$2.50 per thousand of assessed property value. Many seniors and people living with disabilities are eligible for property tax exemptions.

Lisa Fundanet, Port Orchard