

Astoria
School District

**A Budget Guide for
Our Community
2015-2016**

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Letter from the Superintendent

*A Budget Guide
For Our Community*

Dear Patrons and Staff

Each year as we begin to plan for the budget Astoria School District staff create this document called A Budget Guide for our Community. This document provides a brief overview and historical look at how Astoria School District funds different programs. In addition to funding information the document provides an overview of demographic information, student performance, enrollment forecasting, and funding forecasting for the district.

This document needs to be used for guiding recommendations and decisions on funding for the 2015-2016 school year and beyond. More information will be added and updated as we move forward in the budget process.

The 2015-2016 budget will be built with input from the community, staff, school administration, school board, and the budget committee. A good starting point for building a budget is to review the district goals and guiding principles that are enclosed in this document and to review enrollment figures and enrollment projections over the next four to five years.

I appreciate your feedback and support.

Sincerely,



Craig Hoppes
Astoria School District
Superintendent

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District Goals

Achievement Gap

Astoria School District will implement a plan that will provide strategies, resources, and priorities to narrow the identified achievement gap of students in the Astoria School District (Students in Poverty and Hispanic Students).

Certified Evaluation

In collaboration with certified staff, Astoria School District will complete a thorough review of the teacher evaluation system and make necessary changes that will impact student learning and support certified/administrators in the use of the evaluation process. This goal will be completed by June 2015.

Health and Wellness

Actively promote the health and wellness of all students to advance both their healthy development and readiness to learn.

Astoria School District Board Goals

Strategic Planning

By the end of the 2014-2015 school year, Astoria School District will have completed a comprehensive and collaborative strategic plan for the district.

Achievement Gap

Astoria School District will implement a plan that will provide strategies, resources, and priorities to narrow the identified achievement gap of students in the Astoria School District (Students in Poverty and Hispanic Students)

Board Communication/Engagement/Visibility

During the 2014-2015 school year, Astoria School District Board of Directors will increase their board communication, school/community engagement, and visibility.

Communication

During the 2014-2015 school year, Astoria School District Board of Directors and Superintendent will consistently communicate board and district goals to the public in numerous ways.



Guiding Principals for the 2015-2016 Budget

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The following information will be used to formulate recommendations for the 2015-2016 Budget

- ◆ State, Federal, & Astoria School District Policy
- ◆ The District Vision, Core Value and Beliefs
- ◆ Board Goals and Priorities
- ◆ Building Goals
- ◆ Experience from Previous Budget Processes



The basic guiding principles used to balance the budget are as follows:

- To the extent possible, maintain a breadth and depth of experiences for students of all abilities.
- Attracting and retaining outstanding teachers, administrators, and support staff is necessary for long-term success.
- High standards for student performance are to be maintained. Necessary curriculum and technology will be a priority.
- The safety and security of students will be a priority and maintained.
- Efficiency measures will be implemented before eliminating programs.
- Support for all co-curricular activities
204 Account – AHS & 206 Account - AMS.
- Class sizes will be monitored closely at the lower grade levels (K-6).
- Financial plans and decisions will take into account sustainability measures that will have impact in future budget and funding levels
- Expand/Create programs that provide educational opportunities for students and potentially increase enrollment within district
- Priorities need to be developed based on measureable goals evaluated systemically at the building and district level
- Budget decisions are guided with data driven information.

Our Students

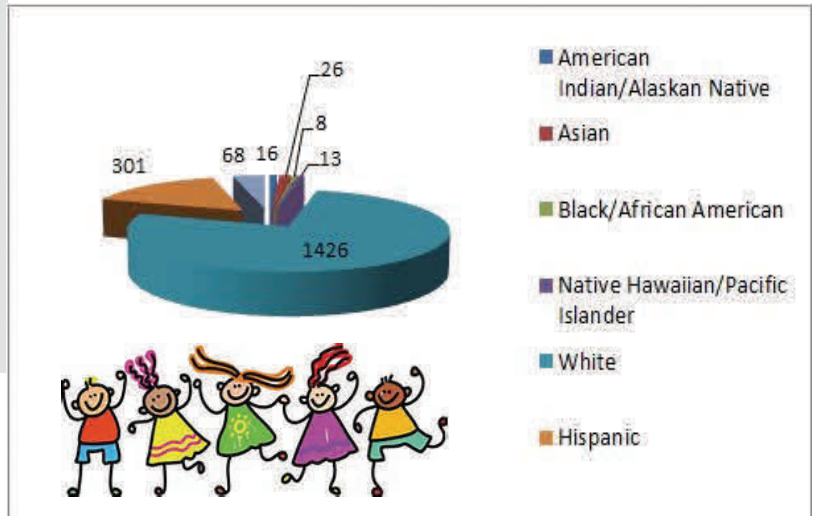
Student Demographics

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Total Students: 1833

Based on February 2015 enrollment figures.

- English Language Learners: 91 (5% of all students)
- Special Education: 259 (14% of all students)



STUDENTS IN POVERTY

Federal Title I Programs

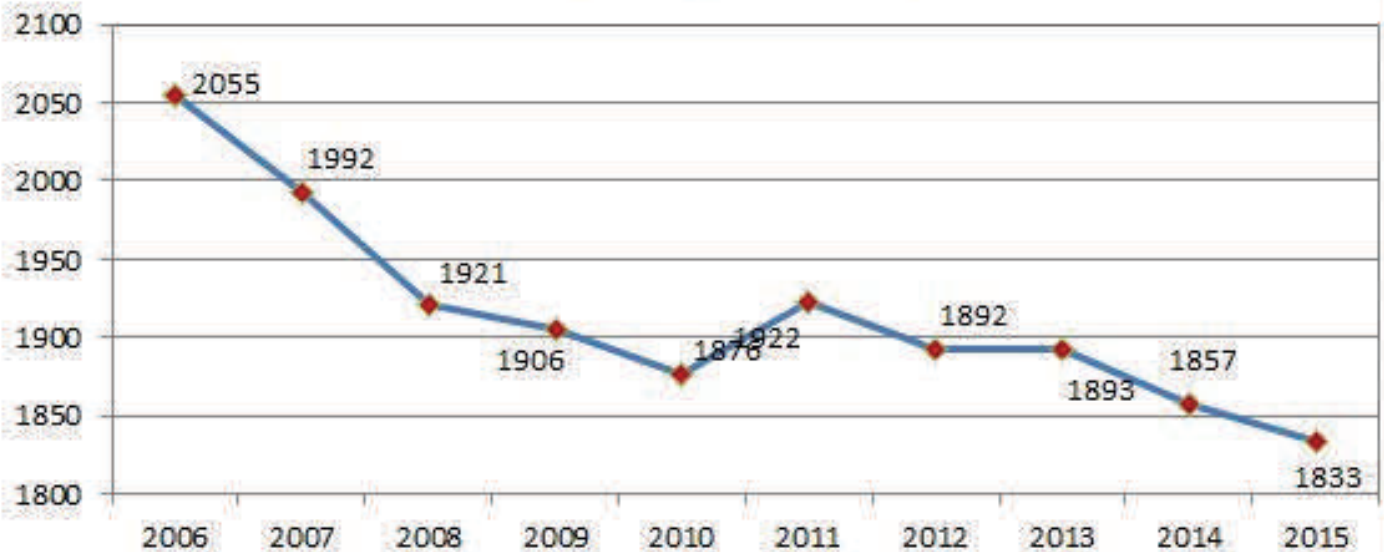
Astoria School District has three schools receiving Title I funds. These are federal dollars that fund programs to assist children who live in low income areas.



Free and Reduced Meal Program

49% of the student population, (914 students) participate in the Free and Reduced meal program in Astoria School District. A student qualifies for the program if his/her family income is below a certain federal level. This number is equal to the 2013-2014 school year.

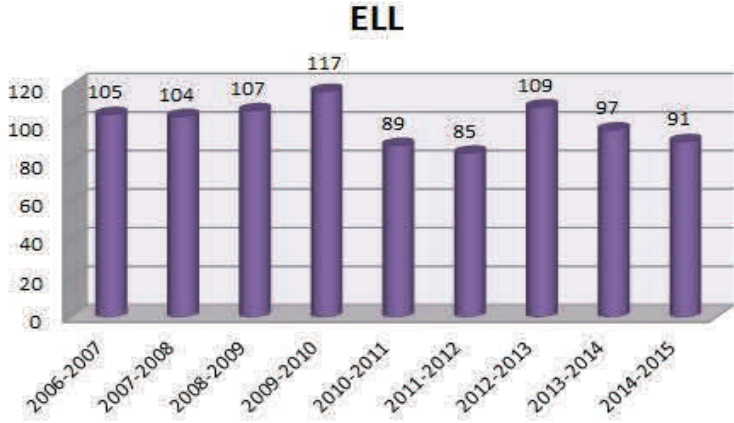
10 Year Enrollment



Our Students

Student Demographics continued

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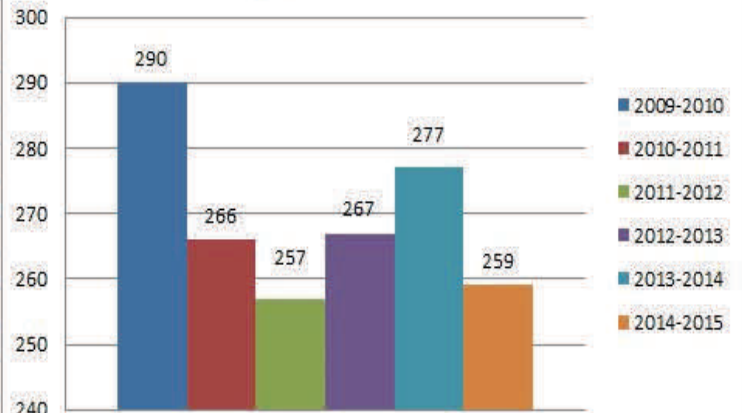


Due to the large number of ELL students in the district we have created a comprehensive plan to provide resources and learning opportunities for our ELL students

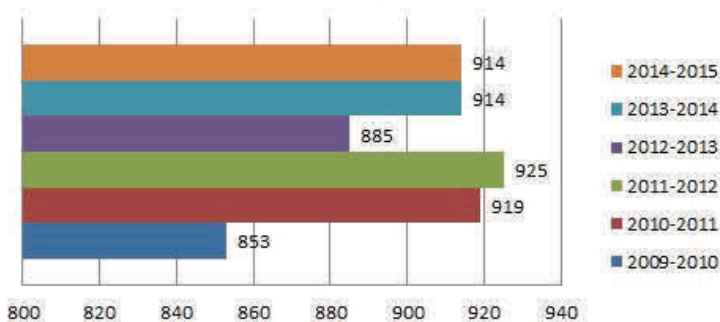


The Astoria School District Special Education official census count number (259) is down 18 students from last year. The total number of students served is higher because the number only reflects resident students. Students who are in the district on courtesy enrollments, attending county consortium programs, and the Alternative Education program are also being served. The district participates in a county wide special education consortium which has a total of five classrooms. Astoria School District has students in all five classrooms, two of which are located in the Astoria School District, one classroom is located at Astoria Middle School and one is located at Astoria High School.

Special Education



Free & Reduced Meal Program Participation



On average, the student poverty rate in the Astoria School District has run about 42% of all students over the last several years. Currently, Astoria School District has 49% of students participating in the Free and Reduced Meal Program.



Academic Achievement

State Assessment Results

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SUBJECT	GRADE	2012-2013 Meets or Exceeds	2013-2014 Meets or Exceeds
Reading	3	78%	81%
	4	92%	76%
	5	77%	78%
	6	75%	73%
	7	84%	85%
	8	75%	67%
	10	78%	86%
	11	91%	91%
	Math	3	77%
4		83%	70%
5		68%	63%
6		54%	64%
7		66%	70%
8		65%	71%
10		48%	56%
11		53%	73%

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

Every school in the Astoria School District is given a rating by the Oregon Department of Education and by the Federal Government. The rating is Adequate Yearly Progress. The rating is based on annual assessment scores in reading and math by all students and by different groups of students. The following is a chart that gives the rating for the different schools in the Astoria School District.

SCHOOL	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014
Gray Elementary	—	—	—
Astor Elementary	Met	Level 5, Above Average	Level 4, Above Average
Lewis and Clark Elementary	Met	Level 4, Above Average	Level 2, Below Average
Astoria Middle School	Did Not Meet	Level 4, Above Average	Level 4, Above Average
Astoria High School	Did Not Meet	Level 3, Average	Level 3, Average

*ODE revised the Rating system in 2012/2013. Schools now receive a rating between 1 and 5, 1 being the bottom 5% of schools and 5 being the top 10% of schools in the State

ASTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT DROP-OUT RATE

	Astoria High School	State
2009-2010	5.0	3.6
2010-2011	3.5	3.4
2011-2012	4.1	3.4
2012-2013	3.5	4.0

FRESHMAN ON TRACK

School Year	% ON TRACK
2010-2011	No Data
2011-2012	No Data
2012-2013	75.9%
2013-2014	79.5%

Average Class Size

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Three Year Comparison

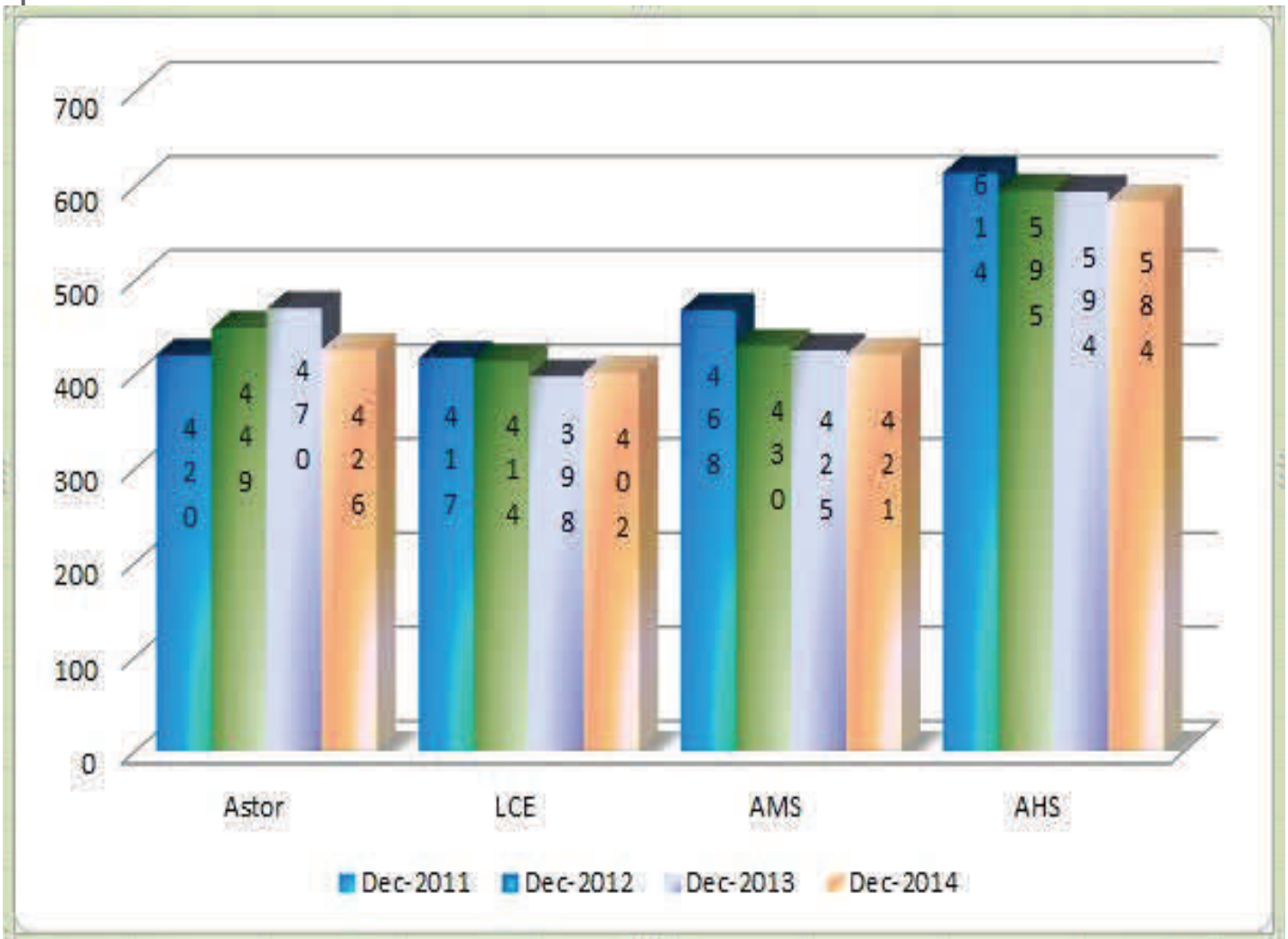
	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015
Astoria High School 9-12	29	25	26
Astoria Middle School 7&8	25	27	26
Astoria Middle School 6th	25	29	26
Lewis & Clark 5th	27	28	27
Lewis & Clark 4th	29	28	22
Lewis & Clark 3rd	27	23	25
Astor 2nd	25	27	23
Astor 1st	23	24	22
Astor KG	21	19	21



Enrollment

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Four Year Enrollment History by School



Enrollment

Enrollment Projection—June Student Count

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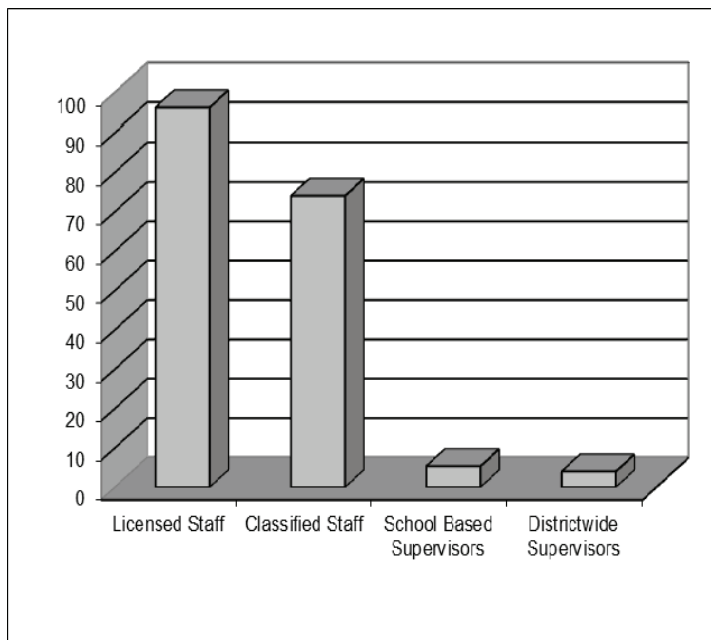


	Last Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
FTE	JUNE 2014	JUNE 2015*	JUNE 2016	JUNE 2017	JUNE 2018	JUNE 2019	JUNE 2020	JUNE 2021	JUNE 2022	JUNE 2023
K @ .50*	66	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K**	0	0	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
1	165	132	128	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
2	151	161	132	128	140	140	140	140	140	140
3	112	149	161	132	128	140	140	140	140	140
4	136	110	149	161	132	128	140	140	140	140
5	136	138	110	149	161	132	128	140	140	140
6	140	149	138	110	149	161	132	128	140	140
7	125	137	149	138	110	149	161	132	128	140
8	145	131	137	149	138	110	149	161	132	128
9	148	151	131	137	149	138	110	149	161	132
10	131	164	151	131	137	149	138	110	149	161
11	134	128	164	151	131	137	149	138	110	149
12	139	141	128	164	151	131	137	149	138	110
TOTAL	1728	1755	1818	1830	1806	1795	1804	1807	1798	1800
		*Feb 2015								
		Count								
K	66	64	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
Gr 1-8	1110	1107	1104	1107	1098	1100	1130	1121	1100	1108
Gr 9-12	552	584	574	583	568	555	534	546	558	552
TOTAL	1728	1755	1818	1830	1806	1795	1804	1807	1798	1800
**FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN										

Staff FTE

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This chart highlights the amount of full-time equivalent (FTE) Astoria School District staff that are budgeted in the 2014-2015 General Fund. The majority of the employees are teachers and classified staff who provide support to the classrooms.



Licensed Staff: 100.42 (FTE)

Teachers, counselors and librarians.

Classified Staff: 73.39 (FTE)

Instructional assistants, custodians, bus drivers, clerical staff, nurses, confidential staff.

School Based Supervisors: 6.92 (FTE)

Principals and assistant principals.

Districtwide Supervisors: 3.00 (FTE)

Superintendent, business manager, transportation director.

Licensed Staff	100.42(FTE)
Classified Staff	73.39(FTE)
School Based Supervisors	6.92(FTE)
Districtwide Supervisors	3.00(FTE)
Total	183.73



2014-2015 Budget

General Fund Budget

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**Astoria School District
2014-2015 General Fund Budget
By Major Category**

General Fund Expenditures	% of Total
Certified wages & benefits	51.66%
Classified wages & benefits	19.79%
Admin wages & benefits	8.20%
Confidential wages & benefits	1.81%
Substitutes, Extra Duty, Tuition	2.37%
Retiree stipends & insurance	0.90%
Total wages & benefits	84.73%
Services	4.01%
Utilities	2.43%
Student transportation	2.90%
Supplies	3.09%
Insurance & Dues	1.46%
Equip/Bldg Improvements	0.04%
Fund Transferes	1.33%
Total Non-Personnel Expenses	15.27%
Total Expenditures	100.00%

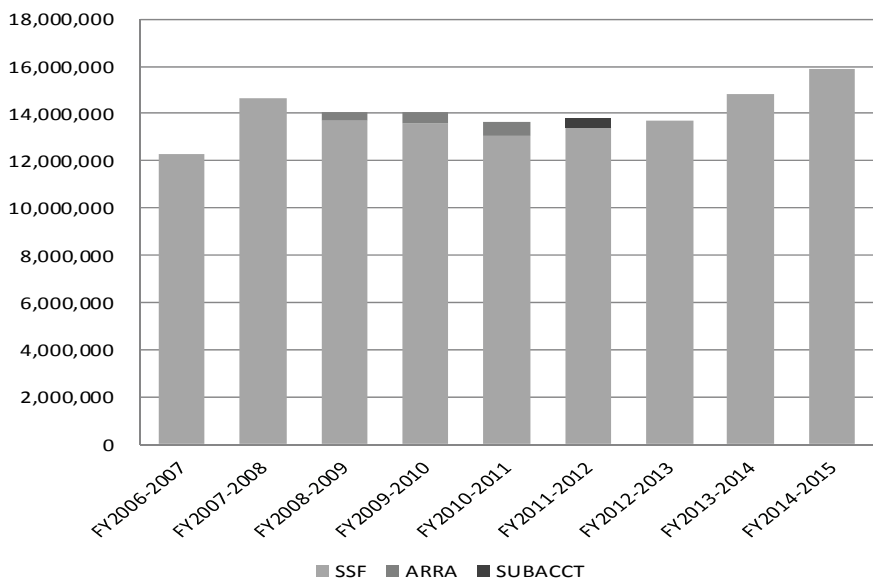
The information on the left shows a breakdown of the 2014-2015 General Fund Expenditures for staffing and non-personnel expenses. This shows that staff are 84.73% of the total expenditures for the Astoria School District.



The chart on the right shows the State School Funding History. Because of economic recovery, State School Funding has started to improve.



SSF FUNDING HISTORY



Preliminary Estimated Budget Assumptions

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General Fund Revenue**2015-2016**

1. **Student Enrollment** – The June 30, 2015 enrollment is estimated to be 1800 students and enrollment is expected to remain the same for June 30, 2016. This is a decrease in the enrollment level, but an increase because of full day kindergarten. The District will budget for 1800 students for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Enrollment needs to be monitored closely over the next year and taken into consideration when budgeting. A decrease in enrollment over the next year could impact funding the district receives.
2. **State School Fund** –The 2015-2016 school year is the first year for the biennium. For the 2013-2015 school years the district is funded (State School Fund) at the \$6.65 billion level. The legislature also passed PERS reform that has caused an expenditure savings to the district in the amount equaling a \$6.75 billion budget level. This past year the state legislature went back into session and provided more relief in PERS increases and other revenue streams. Currently state legislators are looking at a budget around \$7.235 billion. Included in this \$7.235 billion amount is funding to pay for full day kindergarten, which, the school district will offer free full day kindergarten in the fall of 2015-2016. Although the \$7.235 billion funding level is higher than the \$6.75 billion amount we were funded last year, the cost of full day kindergarten brings the funding amount down significantly. Current funding levels coming from the state are showing Astoria School District needs a funding level of \$7.5 billion to cover the cost of full day kindergarten and to maintain our current programs. Any funding less than the \$7.5 billion could mean reductions in programs and staff. This is the same scenario statewide.
3. **Property Taxes** – The assessed value for property taxes are anticipated to remain flat and property tax collections are projected to be 92%.
4. **Beginning Fund Balance** – The Beginning Fund Balance for 2014-2015 school year carried over in the amount of \$669,931. The beginning fund balance has been slowly recovering after low carryovers and difficulty maintaining over the last five years. The district expects the Beginning Fund Balance to be approximately \$600,000 for this coming school year. As funding levels get better the district needs to look at increasing the ending fund balance in preparation for downturns in the economy or emergency expenses.
5. **ESD Revenue** – ESD flow-through funds should be the same as the 2014-2015 school year if State Funding stays level. ESD money pays for required special education services, technology services, and other expenses that normally the district can get cheaper by using the ESD instead of trying to purchase these items on our own. The use of ESD services is vital in efficiencies and savings in the area of technology as well as other services provided that are difficult to get in a rural area.

Preliminary Estimated Budget Assumptions

*A Budget Guide**For Our Community***General Fund Revenue continued****2015-2016**

6. **Other Revenue Funds** – The district continues to look for other revenue sources. Some sources of revenue include grants, rental fees (Gray Elementary), and energy money (used to update sprinkler system at Astor and the new boiler system at Astoria Middle School completed over the last five years). The district will continue to explore other revenue sources including MAC money. MAC money is Medicaid funding that allows the district to collect funds based on services provided to students throughout the school year. Another revenue source is the Construction Excise Tax which allows the district to collect funds based on residential and commercial building permits within the district. The Construction Excise Tax went into effect February 1, 2011. These funds help with maintenance projects within the district. The district implemented an online academy. Throughout the school year the district has had between 14 to 18 students in grades K-8 enrolled in this program. A majority of the students enrolled are home school students who have not attended the district in the past. In addition, the district has increased the amount of staffing in the alternative education program with the idea of increasing enrollment. Currently there are over 40 students attending the alternative education program. Some full time students and others are hybrid students who attend the high school as well as the alternative education program. This program has increased in enrollment over the last five years and the district should continue to support this program. As a reminder, the alternative education program enrolls students in grades 9-12 from all over Clatsop County. The district continues to look for other revenue sources in the form of grants. Currently the district has attained grants in the area of the new teacher mentor program, a P-3 grant from the Oregon Community Foundation, assessment literacy, and a STEM Partnership grant that covers all districts on the coast.



Preliminary Estimated Budget Assumptions

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General Fund Expenditures**2015-2016**

1. **Personnel Contracts** – All contracts expire July 1, 2015. All contracts must be negotiated. This process will begin shortly.
2. **Retirements and Resignations** – The number of retirements and resignations is not known at this time. The district expects to learn of the retirements and resignations if any, in the very near future.
3. **Health Insurance** – Currently the district pays up to \$1,141.02 a month for classified staff members eligible for insurance. This amount will be the same for the duration of the classified contract. The district pays \$1,150.00 a month for each certified staff member and \$1,455.11 a month for each administrator. Over the next couple of years the Astoria School District needs to closely review policies and procedures around health insurance as the district will be required to implement the new health care plan.
4. **PERS** - The District's PERS rate has been very low because of the PERS Bond Issue we participated in with other districts in 2003. Our implied PERS rate, the amount we need each year to make the bond payment, the amount we need each year to make the bond payment, is a little more than 14%. PERS accounts are once again in the position of Unfunded Actuarial Liability, where the assets do not cover the retirement needs if everyone in the system were to retire immediately. The current PERS rate adjustment is down overall in the state for the new rate effective 07/01/15, however, because of our bonding, the actual rate we pay to PERS will stay at about 1%. The PERS rate adjustment is for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Given the PERS rate for Astoria School District there is very minimal change when the PERS increases or decreases as compared to other districts and government entities. This non-expense money can be spent in other areas related to student learning and programs.

5. **Special Education Consortium** – Astoria School District participates in the Special Educators Consortium within Clatsop County. The consortium consists of five classes throughout the county that are set up to meet specific special education needs of students. Astoria School District currently has two of those five classes within our district. A cost evaluation was done earlier this year. The cost of having the consortium classrooms countywide versus doing them ourselves was a savings to the district. Costs have risen overall for these classes mainly because of salaries and benefits as well as the needs in the classroom have increased. These programs will continue to be evaluated. The ESD provides each county with "county allocation" funds. As a county \$100,000 is placed into the consortium classes from "county allocation" funds to help with cost associated with these classes.

Preliminary Estimated Budget Assumptions

*A Budget Guide**For Our Community***General Fund Expenditures continued****2015-2016**

6. **Utilities** – The district expects a very minimal adjustment for all utility costs in the 2015-2016 school year because of rate increases, most notably in natural gas costs. The district put together an energy efficiency plan beginning the 2011-2012 school year. This plan is based on work the district has done with an energy expert. Information that was addressed in the plan include lighting, heating times, facility use, and energy rate reviews. The district is also saving utility money with the new transportation department as the fuel for the building is recycled oil from current vehicles and donated fuel.

7. **Transportation** – The district purchased a new facility six years ago. The facility is currently on the depreciation schedule with the state where the district is saving 70% on the depreciation. The district has taken strides to make the transportation department efficient. This will continue but will need to be monitored for efficiency measures and assurances that we can transport students to and from school in a safe manner. As part of the budget process the district will be looking to put together a long term vehicle replacement. Two buses were purchased at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year. Fuel costs for buses has leveled out this school year. It would be prudent for the district to no plan for a decrease in fuel costs to make sure our expenses for fuel are covered.



Oregon Legislative Contacts

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It is important that our local legislators hear from their constituents concerning proper funding for K-12 Oregon Schools.

Below is contact information for our local legislators. Please feel free to contact them.

Senator Betsy Johnson

State Capitol Office

900 Court Street NE, S-215, Salem, OR 97301

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