



Every Student. Every Day.

Dan Voelpel
Director, Public Information
601 South 8th St. Tacoma, WA 98405
Phone: 253-571-1015
Fax: 253-571-1038

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Contact: Dan Voelpel, director, Public Information, dvoelpe@tacoma.k12.wa.us

Public hearings on proposed school closures on May 4 and 5

Tacoma Public Schools has set public hearings related to the proposed closures of Wainwright and McKinley elementary schools for the first week in May. State law and district policy require two hearings per school before the school board can take final action on the proposed closures.

The School Board will host the two public hearings for Wainwright Elementary School May 4 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Wainwright, 130 Alameda Ave., in Fircrest.

The School Board will host the two public hearings for McKinley Elementary School May 5 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 8 p.m. at McKinley, 3702 McKinley Ave., in Tacoma.

The board plans to vote on the proposals at its May 12 meeting.

Tacoma Public Schools faces an estimated \$23 million budget shortfall for the 2011-2012 school year. The district and School Board have discussed a proposed package of up to \$13 million in budget cuts – including school closures – combined with using \$10 million from its savings account to offset additional cuts.

Over the last two months, the school board and district have engaged more than 2,000 citizens in a series of public meetings and via email on how to deal with a dramatic decrease in state funding.

For more information on the budget crisis, go to the district's Web site at www.tacomaschools.org and click on the big blue banner that reads, "District Budget Outlook." There you will summary reports on the rationale for and impacts of the proposed closures of Wainwright and McKinley elementary schools.

On that Web site, you also will find documents, presentations, background materials, newspaper coverage, links and other materials explaining the proposals to deal with the budget crisis. In the right-hand column if that site, the district has provided a link where you can email your comments to the superintendent and school board members.