



Gregory J. Nickels  
Mayor of Seattle

February 20, 2007

Dear Friends:

The people of Seattle have a proud history of supporting public education. In fact since 1990, Seattle voters have three times supported the City's Families and Education Levy and voted to tax themselves to support children in Seattle's public schools.

In September 2004, the voters of Seattle renewed their commitment by approving a \$117 million investment to promote academic success and improve accountability. The voters sent a clear message: they want a stronger focus on academic achievement and they want to see results. Voters wanted to improve performance, reduce the gap in achievement between low income students and more affluent classmates and they wanted outcomes made public.

I am happy to present to you the first annual report on the 2005 Families and Education Levy, showing the results of investments for the 2005-2006 school year. We had our successes: 77 more low income children entered kindergarten ready to succeed; 319 middle and high school students who would have dropped out, stayed in or returned to school; 4,918 were immunized against disease.

All Levy programs met or exceeded our goals during the first year, but the achievement gap persists. This tells us we must set our goals higher. Our students can achieve. By sharpening our focus even more on academic achievement, we can "move the needle" and reduce the gap.

I challenge the Seattle School District, parents and our community partners to continue to think innovatively and act with conviction to establish a new culture of high expectations for all students. They need and deserve a first-rate school system, and all students deserve high expectations and academic success, regardless of their backgrounds. We can – and must – educate all of our students. That is the only way we can prepare them to compete in the global economy. Great schools are the only way we will attract families with children back into the city.

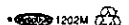
Levy staff and the Levy Oversight Committee will use this report to set goals for the 2007-08 school year and will share it widely with the community.

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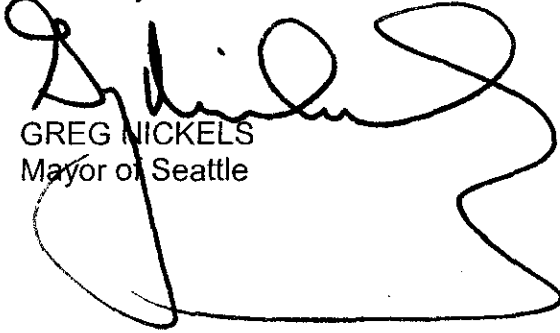
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For more details on Levy results, please go to <http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/education/> or call the Office for Education at (206) 233-5118.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our children and for your interest in the Families and Education Levy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Nickels', written over a large, stylized, abstract shape that resembles a signature or a large letter 'G'.

GREG NICKELS  
Mayor of Seattle