

"As a realtor and resident in this community, I want to speak to the topic of value and schools. Mukilteo has long been considered a great school district, and home values reflect that. Why? From my experience, for approximately 75 percent of my clients purchasing in Mukilteo, schools are a major factor for why they are moving here. Even for many of my clients who don't have kids or don't have school-age children, the question of school quality is still important to them because they want to have that resale value if and when they decide to sell. They might be aware that studies have repeatedly demonstrated higher test scores correlate to higher home values.

Here in Mukilteo we have two levies coming up, and these levies fund about 15% of the entire District budget. What does that mean for homeowners?

We have seen incredible appreciation these last few years averaging about 12% per year since 2019. If you're wondering if that means our assessments have also gone up that much, they have not. Our assessments have averaged about a 5% increase per year over that same time. Just to offer you an example, my family currently pays about \$2,212 toward Mukilteo Schools from our property taxes. This levy would increase that to about \$2,368. Sure, we have to pay more taxes, in this example \$156 more, but doesn't seem much to ask so that our community continues to be a place people value. If we stop funding schools, the opposite is true: communities deteriorate and values decline. We are beneficiaries of great schools, our home values are as well. Let's keep our schools and possibilities for our kids and community open to a brighter future and richer community."

--Adam Braddock, local realtor