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For Immediate Release

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### West Valley School District Bond Up for Vote February 14th

West Valley School District has a bond issue on the ballot for February 14<sup>th</sup>. If the bond is passed, it would authorize the construction of brand new instructional buildings for Summitview Elementary School and Apple Valley Elementary School (both on their existing sites) as well as an upgrade to the West Valley Junior High campus. All three schools have fallen behind today's standards of primary and secondary educational facilities.

Both elementary schools and the junior high are currently over capacity which means there are more students than each classroom was originally designed to house. Extra resources offered to students outside of the traditional classroom setting have already begun to suffer.

Within the Apple Valley and Summitview school boundaries, three new housing developments, totaling over 1400 homes, are in the construction phase. Once they are completed, new students moving into those homes will be placed in either Apple Valley or Summitview, adding to the overcrowding. To combat this issue, the District may choose to redraw school boundary lines, forcing some students to be bused to schools farther from their homes.

West Valley School District may be in a "use it, or lose it" situation. The State of Washington has agreed to match up to \$21 million if this bond is passed, however if it fails, the state may not authorize a match on a future bond. The longer the district waits to make these upgrades, the more it's going to cost tax payers because eventually they will have to foot the bill without help from the State of Washington.

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