

**DRAFT**

# the Bellingham Promise



## mission

### We Promise

Our students are loved, cared for and respected. They will graduate from high school prepared for success in the global community. They will be exceptional graduates, with strong character, a passion for learning, and ready for the widest range of vocational and educational options to support a diversity of life choices.

## vision

### We Will Empower Every Child to:

*Develop a passion,  
Contribute to community,  
Achieve a fulfilling and  
productive life*

## beliefs

### We Believe

- Every child can learn at high levels
- Mind, body and soul are equally important to the whole
- Learning is lifelong and essential to a high quality of life
- Teaching children to do their best involves self-reflection and reaching higher
- A sense of service builds community
- Diversity leads to robust growth in a community
- Together we achieve more than alone

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# outcomes

## We Develop

### Graduates who are:

- Readers and writers
- Scientists and mathematicians
- Historians and global thinkers
- Artists, craftsmen, and musicians
- Athletes and healthy, fit adults
- Multilingual speakers
- Skilled users of technology

### With character and a passion for learning who are:

- Critical thinkers and problem-solvers
- Effective communicators
- Team players

- Confident individuals
  - Respectful and compassionate humans
  - Innovators and creators
  - Honest and ethical citizens with integrity
- ### Resulting in students who:
- Challenge themselves continuously
  - Show continuous improvement
  - Exceed academic standards
  - Engage with the broader world as well-rounded community members

# strategies

## We Will Accomplish This Through

### A One Schoolhouse Approach

We collectively ensure all students are successful by looking through the lenses of both equality and equity in all that we do, reducing gaps in both opportunity and achievement

### Early Childhood Education

We believe a strong early childhood program is a powerful long-term investment for our students and community

### Innovation and Secondary Flexibility

We adapt to meet the needs of all students so that they graduate ready for the world

### Powerful Teaching and Learning

We believe student learning occurs through outstanding instruction supported by purposeful training and development of our staff and effective leadership throughout the organization

### Authentic Engagement with Students, Community and All Families

We engage all stakeholders and foster partnerships to deliver our promise.

## Share Your Thoughts

Beginning in 2012, Bellingham Public Schools is engaging in *The Bellingham Promise*, a strategic planning process. This draft is built upon our previous strategic plan, our School Board's policies and desired outcomes for students that are shaped by community feedback, input gathered from Superintendent Greg Baker's Entry Plan Process, and our budget priorities. Our intent is to continue to build, refine and improve The Bellingham Promise collaboratively, resulting in a vision, mission, values and work priorities that are

owned by students, staff, families and our greater Bellingham community. Together, we will make The Bellingham Promise a transparent, online document that is easily accessible and memorable for all, and is regularly refined as needed.

Please give your feedback on this draft at [www.bellinghamschools.org](http://www.bellinghamschools.org).

- What resonates?
- What doesn't?
- What would make The Bellingham Promise stronger?



**Greg Baker**  
Superintendent

### School Board

**Kelly M. Bashaw**  
President

**Scott Stockburger**  
Vice President

**Camille Diaz Hackler**  
Director

**Kenneth B. Gass**  
Director

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Director