



# Kindergarten

Bellingham Public Schools

## Registration Begins March 2

## Full-Day, Every Day or Regular Kindergarten

Apply by March 24 for Full-Day,  
Every Day Option



*Families are encouraged to learn more about the Bellingham School District's kindergarten program by contacting their neighborhood school for the tour schedule and to meet the principal. Registration begins Tuesday, March 2. Children must be 5 years old before Sept. 1 to attend kindergarten or they need to take a district assessment to determine if they qualify for early entrance. For more about what to bring for registration, required immunizations and early entrance, see "Families"*

All elementary schools in the Bellingham School District will offer a kindergarten program. Kindergarten start and end times will be the same as the schedule for grades one through five. For the regular kindergarten program, the schedule will be full-day, every *other* day. Details about the schedule will be posted later this spring at <http://bellinghamschools.org/kindergarten-information>. The full-day schedule — instead of a half-day schedule — is more effective for the High Scope instructional method. It also reduces the district's transportation costs and saves other resources. There is no cost to families for regular kindergarten.

For families that prefer a full-day, every day kindergarten schedule, this option will be offered at Alderwood, Carl Cozier, Happy Valley, Lowell, Northern Heights, Parkview, Roosevelt, Silver Beach and Wade King elementary schools on a space available basis. **Because Washington state does not fund full-day every day kindergarten in our district, Bellingham needs to operate this expanded pilot program at no cost to the district due to budget challenges.** Therefore, tuition will be charged on a sliding scale based on a family's qualifying income for free/reduced meals. Payment options are available. Available spaces will be filled by lottery based upon applications received **by 4 p.m. March 24.**



1306 Dupont Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225-3118  
360-676-6400  
[bellinghamschools.org](http://bellinghamschools.org)

**PLEASE SEE REVERSE FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Preference is given to those living in the pilot schools' attendance areas. A waiting list will be developed. A minimum number of students need to enroll or full-day every day sections will be converted to regular kindergarten. Families living outside of the pilot schools' attendance areas may apply for full-time kindergarten, but will need to provide their own transportation if selected. They should register at their neighborhood school and indicate their preference for full-time at a pilot school. Non-refundable deposits/payments will be required to hold assigned spots. A lottery will be held on Friday, March 26 to fill full-time openings. Families will be notified by early April. The full-time kindergarten pilot program has been expanded to include more schools and build sustainability.

## Return on Investment

A landmark, long-term study of the effects of high-quality early care and education on low-income 3 and 4 year olds shows that adults at age 40 who participated in a preschool program in their early years have higher earnings, are more likely to hold a job, have committed fewer crimes, and are more likely to have graduated from high school. Overall, the study documented a return to society of more than \$16 for every tax dollar invested in early childhood education. The High/Scope Perry Preschool study was conducted over four decades.

## High Scope Approach

**Children attending kindergarten in the Bellingham Public Schools receive instruction through a nationally renowned learning method known as High Scope.** This method is based on the philosophy that children should be actively engaged in their own learning. Students become involved in their learning through interactions with people and hands-on experiences with materials, events and ideas. The approach recognizes that children enter kindergarten with a range of skills and abilities. High Scope allows for personalization of instruction and for every child to learn and grow. Teachers and parents are involved in supporting children's emotional, intellectual, social, and physical skills and abilities. Literacy, math, science, music and the arts, play and physical education are all part of High Scope.

*Updated February 25, 2010*

**Beginning March 2, register at the neighborhood elementary school that your child will attend this fall.**

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|---|--|
| *Alderwood, 676-6404<br>3400 Hollywood Ave. | * Lowell, 676-6512<br>RE-OPENS FALL 2010<br>Register at: 1306 Dupont St. |
| Birchwood, 676-6466<br>3200 Pinewood Ave.   | * Northern Heights, 647-6820<br>4000 Magrath Rd.                         |
| * Carl Cozier, 676-6410<br>1330 Lincoln St. | * Parkview, 676-6433<br>3033 Coolidge Dr.                                |
| Columbia, 676-6413<br>2508 Utter St.        | * Roosevelt, 676-6440<br>2900 Yew St.                                    |
| Geneva, 676-6416<br>1401 Geneva St.         | * Silver Beach, 676-6443<br>4101 Academy St.                             |
| * Happy Valley, 676-6420<br>1041 24th St.   | Sunnyland, 676-6446<br>2800 James St.                                    |
| Larrabee, 676-6424<br>1409 18th St.         | * Wade King, 647-6840<br>2155 Yew St. Road                               |

\* Offering full-day, every day option

## Attendance Areas

If you do not know which school your child will attend, please visit our searchable PDF map online at <http://bellingshamschools.org/attendanceareas>. Enter your street name to find your attendance area. If Internet access is not available, please call 676-6512.

## Immunization

**Immunizations protect the health of your child and the health of others. State law requires children entering school must have certain immunizations. They include:**

- Two doses of Varicella (Chickenpox) given on or after first birthday AND received at least 28 days apart OR blood test (titer) showing immunity to Varicella OR healthcare provider diagnosis. Parent-reported history of disease is NO longer acceptable.
- Four doses of DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis), the last dose must be administered after 4 years old.
- Three doses of Polio, the last dose must be administered after 4 years old OR four doses of Polio, if all doses are given before 4 years old.
- Two doses of MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) given on or after first birthday and received at least 28 days apart OR blood test (titer) showing immunity to Measles, Mumps, or Rubella is acceptable.
- Three doses of Hepatitis B.

**For the most updated information, please visit <http://bellingshamschools.org/kindergartenimmunizations>**

**Keep in touch with your Bellingham Public Schools. Register for news via e-mail at [bellingshamschools.org](http://bellingshamschools.org)**