

the Bellingham Promise

vision

We, as a community, make a collective commitment to Bellingham's children. We will empower every child to discover and develop a passion, contribute to their community, and achieve a fulfilling and productive life.

Board Policy E-1



mission

We collectively commit that our students are cared for and respected, and that they will graduate from our schools prepared for success. All students will be exceptional in their own way, with strong character, a passion for learning, and ready for the widest range of educational and vocational options to support a diversity of life choices.

Board Policy E-1



**Bellingham
Public Schools**

a collective commitment

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School Board

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core beliefs

We believe:

- all children should be loved,
- the whole child is important,
- every child can learn at high levels,
- early learning and development are critical,
- learning is lifelong and essential to a high quality of life,
- compassion and service build community,
- teaching children to do their best involves self-reflection and reaching higher,
- diversity enhances a strong and healthy community, and
- together we achieve more than alone.

Board Policy GP-1



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outcomes

We develop students and graduates who are...

KNOWLEDGE

- readers and writers,
- scientists and mathematicians,
- historians and global thinkers,
- artists and performers
- artisans and technicians,
- multilingual readers and speakers,
- skilled users of technology and information,

CHARACTER

- leaders, collaborators and team players,
- dependable and responsible people,
- confident individuals who continuously challenge themselves,
- respectful and compassionate humans,
- honest and ethical citizens who act with integrity,

ACTION

- healthy, active individuals,
- critical thinkers and problem solvers,
- effective communicators,
- innovators and creators, and
- well-rounded community members engaged with the broader world.

Board Policy E-2, E-3

key strategies by focusing on...



Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

We commit to facilitating change that will lead to a more diverse, inclusive and equitable organization. Focus areas include, but are not limited to, race and ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, disability, language and culture.

Innovation and Flexibility

We are innovative and flexible in how we support the diverse needs and learning styles of our students. We embrace change and outside-of-the-box thinking and know that this requires a high level of trust and engagement with our community.

Great Teaching with Strong Support

Culturally-responsive instruction occurs in every classroom, every day, resulting in high levels of learning. We support instruction through effective leadership, ongoing staff learning, and a diverse staff reflective of our students, who establish safe and engaging learning environments where all students feel a sense of belonging

Early Childhood Education

We support students and families from prenatal through graduation. We invest in a strong early childhood program because of its powerful long-term return for our students and community.

A One Schoolhouse Approach

All our schools are part of a larger One Schoolhouse. We provide an equitable distribution of resources and services to ensure excellence for all students.

Student, Family, and Community Engagement

We develop partnerships and authentically engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, including families and community partners. We acknowledge barriers and work to minimize them, in order to support the success of all students.

Strategic Planning

The Bellingham Promise is our district strategic plan, collaboratively developed in 2012 with staff, students, families and our community and is reviewed and updated on a regular basis. The Promise reflects our School Board's policy governance policies, which set desired outcomes for current students and graduates.