For information about the GRADS Program in Bellingham Public Schools, contact:

**Kristi Dominguez**  
Executive Director, Early Childhood Learning  
360-676-6488

**Stephanie Schroeder**  
Childcare Supervisor  
360-393-9336

If you feel you could benefit from this program, talk to your school counselor, school nurse or other caring adults and learn more about GRADS options for your education.
**GRADS PROGRAM**

Are you pregnant or already a parent? Have you dropped out of school?

Choose your future by staying in school with your baby nearby.

**GRADS** is a program for pregnant and parenting students that provides the academic and childcare support necessary to stay in high school and graduate.

**GRADS** is available at no cost to pregnant teens and young parents under the age of twenty-one who live in Bellingham or Whatcom County and have not graduated from high school.

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**Curriculum**

**GRADS** students attend regular high school courses and receive instruction in units of study related to:

**Pregnancy**
- Wellness
- Maternal and fetal development
- Labor and delivery
- Postnatal care

**Parenting**
- Newborn expectations
- Adjustments to parenting
- Child development
- Childcare

**Positive Self Image**
- Relationships
- Practical problem-solving
- Options and decisions

**Economic Independence**
- Career exploration
- Goal setting
- Job searches and applications
- Balance as both parent and wage earner
- Economic resources

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**Other Program Highlights**

- Educational instruction in Family and Consumer Science curriculum
- Earning required credits toward high school graduation
- Health services support from the Department of Health
- Individual and group counseling
- On-site licensed childcare for children one month to five years
- Mileage reimbursement
- Assistance accessing community resources

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**Infant/Toddler Care & Preschool Onsite**

While students take their courses, childcare is provided onsite by licensed childcare professionals for children one month to five years old, allowing students to focus on their graduation and future goals.