

2016-17 Budget Process and Timeline

During the past several years, our families, community and staff have helped develop The Bellingham Promise, the strategic plan of Bellingham Public Schools.

The Promise holds our vision, mission, core beliefs, desired outcomes for students and graduates, and the five key strategies to achieve this work: Great Teaching with Strong Support; A One Schoolhouse Approach; Early Childhood Education; Student, Family and Community Engagement; and Innovation and Flexibility.

Within each of these strategies are work priorities that we call Priorities for Progress. Our Priorities for Progress emerged to enhance our budget development process in recent years with feedback from staff, families and our community about the top priorities to invest resources. The 2016 Priorities for Progress describes in detail much of the work that's underway in Bellingham Public Schools.

Budget Process Timeline 2016

Times/Dates	Communication Method	Purpose	Status
December 2015- Summer 2016	Regular budget updates via website, email and newsletters.	Keep students, staff, families and community informed regarding Legislative updates and budget development process.	Ongoing
January - February 2016	Issue call for above-baseline requests (what is not currently funded) and budget reduction proposals.	Principals and district leaders work with staff and school communities to determine priorities and make recommendations to the Department of Teaching and Learning and Finance and Operations.	Complete
March 1-4, 2016	Gather Feedback on 2015 Priorities for Progress and draft budget	Superintendent shares and gathers feedback and ideas from all staff and	Complete

	priorities through an online survey.	families to help form draft budget.	
February - March 2016	Review above-baseline requests and budget reduction proposals.	The Superintendent and Executive Team review proposals and continue processing with principals and staff to establish priorities and recommendations.	Complete
March -April 2016	Build draft budget priorities and gather input.	Staff uses available information, requests and feedback to build draft budget.	Complete
April - May 2016	Present draft budget and gather feedback.		Complete
May - June 2016	Incorporate feedback and develop final budget.		Complete
June 2016	School Board receives proposed 2016-17 budget.		Complete
August 2016	Budget public hearing and adoption.		