



Bellingham Public Schools Feedback and 1:1 Technology Summary Analysis

A major work priority for Bellingham Public Schools involves researching 1:1-plus (one or more computers/devices per student in certain grades, subjects or programs) to enhance student learning as part of an upcoming replacement technology levy. The technology levy along with a replacement operations levy together make up approximately 25 percent of the overall budget. A community phone survey along with an online survey for staff, families and students was shared starting Sept. 10 and closed on Sept. 16.

Summary: A total of 1,304 people were surveyed which includes both the community phone survey and online survey. For the purpose of this analysis, those who took to phone survey will be referred to as “community members.” Answers were received from students, English and Spanish-speaking families, community members and staff from district schools and programs. Across all surveys the district received a “pretty good” rating regarding the teaching and learning, operations and performance of the district. In every survey, respondents said that technology is “very important” to today’s education, and all groups strongly favored a 1:1 (one-to-one) technology initiative. All groups agreed that this initiative should be implemented over the next few years. Respondents were concerned about online safety and security, but the level of concern varied among groups, with students and staff feeling less concerned than families and community members. Students, families and community members felt that providing technology to enhance learning for students with communication, vision or cognitive disabilities was the highest priority, while staff felt professional developing to support the implementation of technology was the highest priority.

Demographics:

- 264 Parents/guardians (including 22 Spanish-speaking families)
- 553 Students
- 105 Staff members
- 382 Community members

How would you rate the teaching and learning, operations and performance of Bellingham Public Schools?

A total of 1,290 people answered this question. The majority answered “pretty good.”

- Excellent –26 percent
- **Pretty Good – 53 percent**
- Only Fair –12 percent
- Poor – 2 percent

- Not Sure – 7 percent

Why did you select that rating?

"I think my kids are getting a great education, but there is always room for improvement. I support the administration and teachers and see the gap between the vision of The Bellingham Promise and reality closing every year." – Parent

"Because my teachers have explained every lesson thoroughly and helped me and the other students when they need help and have pushed me to do my very best work." – Student

"The level of collaboration in this district has exceeded what I have seen in every other district in which I've worked. The classes are inquiry based with many opportunities for student self-reflection." – Staff

Please tell us how important you believe technology is to today's education.

This question was answered by 1,232 people. The majority answered "very important."

- **Very Important – 68 percent**
- Somewhat Important – 26 percent
- Somewhat Unimportant – 3.3 percent
- Very Unimportant – 1.3 percent
- Unsure – 1.4 percent

Bellingham Public Schools is considering a technology program that would provide one device, such as a laptop or tablet, to every student in specific grade levels, subjects or programs. Would you support the district providing one device for every student?

This question was answered by 1,237 people. The majority answered "strongly favor."

- **Strongly Favor – 52 percent**
- Somewhat Favor – 28 percent
- Somewhat Oppose – 8.5 percent
- Strongly Oppose – 6 percent
- Not Sure – 5.5 percent

Why would you favor or oppose Bellingham Public Schools providing one device for every student?

"Some kids don't have the same access to technology and the internet that most kids have. I think this puts them at a further disadvantage. I really support as level a playing field as possible to help all kids reach their full potential." – Parent

"They need to learn, but I worry about too much technology being a distraction." – Parent

"I think it would be a good idea because then students wouldn't be using their phones to look things up and get distracted by texts or notifications, but at the same time, it would be expensive to buy them and fix them if they are broken." - Student

"As I mentioned above, they are a phenomenal tool that enables teachers to enrich lessons and accommodate more student needs and interests. So many children these days are raised behind a screen. I feel it is essential to educate them how to use technology productively and creatively." – Staff

If we move forward with providing one laptop or tablet for students in certain grades, subjects or programs, how quickly do you believe it should be implemented?

This question was answered by 1,231 people. The majority selected “over the next few years.”

- **Over the next few years –76 percent**
- Over 5 or more years – 9 percent
- Never/oppose the idea - 9.5 percent
- Not sure (phone survey only) – 5.5 percent

Please tell us how concerned you would be about online safety and security if the district moves forward with providing students with a laptop or tablet.

This question was answered by 1,236 people. While the highest number of people selected “somewhat concerned,” this answer varied with more parents expressing some concern about online safety and security than students and staff. Community members expressed the most concern, with more than half selecting “very concerned.”

- Not concerned at all – 21 percent
- **Somewhat concerned – 32 percent**
- Concerned –15 percent
- Very concerned –27 percent
- Not sure – 5 percent

The following is a list of specific technology programs we would like your opinion on. Please tell us how you would rate each program.

Answers varied, however, parents, students and community members selected “providing adaptive technology to enhance learning for students with communication, vision or cognitive disabilities,” as their highest priority. Staff selected “providing professional development for staff to support the implementation of a technology device for every student to enhance learning,” as their highest priority. All groups selected “installing video monitoring systems to improve student safety at all schools,” as the lowest priority.