



Feb. 15, 2017

A Message from the Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee

Dear Cordata, Alderwood, Parkview and Northern Heights Families,

Earlier this school year, Bellingham Public Schools shared information about the growth happening in **north Bellingham**, and its current and future impact on school enrollment. Families also received information to apply for consideration to serve on the **Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee**.

Our committee of students, parents and staff has been meeting weekly this winter. One of the issues we've been working on is how to create more enrollment space at Cordata because the school is now full. In the future, areas around Cordata are predicted to continue to grow. We have been thoughtfully considering how to make this adjustment. Today, we emailed and mailed a letter and survey for feedback to the 71 families most affected by our proposal.

At this time, we want to share this draft attendance area proposal that represents our group's best thinking. In the current proposal:

- Cordata students who live in the areas outlined **in this map** would attend **Alderwood** (22 students), **Parkview** (25 students) and **Northern Heights** (24 students) elementary schools starting in August. School bus transportation to and from the neighborhood will be provided.
- Students who have moved into the new **Villa Santa Fe** housing complex off Bakerview Road near Cordata are currently under an involuntary transfer to attend Alderwood until more space is available at Cordata. In this proposal, Villa Santa Fe students attend Cordata starting in August.

Our committee used the following [policy 3130](#) criteria to develop our attendance area draft for your input:

- Minimize disruption of student's established learning programs.
- Keep siblings in the same elementary, middle or high school, whenever possible.
- Provide overall balance of student enrollment related to facility size, taking into account future growth patterns.
- Provide a reasonably balanced socio-economic relationship in all schools.
- Provide the most efficient and feasible means for student transportation to and from school, including whether safe routes to school might exist, minimizing travel time and transportation costs.

- Keep neighborhoods together, whenever possible.
- Maintain feeder school patterns so that elementary/middle/high school attendance areas coincide and students stay with the same cohort as they progress through school levels, whenever possible.
- Follow natural boundaries and utilize existing physical boundaries such as major roadways to delineate boundaries, whenever possible.

In looking at which neighborhoods to select for this adjustment, our committee also considered proximity to other elementary schools and schools with available space. Students living in these areas could make this adjustment together. North Bellingham is growing and projections show more adjustments will likely be needed in future years to create more space at Cordata, Shuksan and Squalicum. For more rationale, please see our [Q&A at bellingshamschools.org/attendance-areas-committee](https://bellingshamschools.org/attendance-areas-committee).

Next Steps: Our committee will review the feedback from the [survey](#) (open through noon Friday, March 10), share more of our rationale at the input meeting, and take input into consideration at the parent input session from **6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 9 in the Cordata Elementary School cafeteria**. Our advisory group will meet to consider the input on March 16 before submitting a recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent will then consider our recommendation, make a decision and communicate with families. We anticipate a decision by the end of March to allow students to attend welcome events and orientations at their new schools this spring.

If you have questions about your address and proposed attendance area, please contact us (360) 676-6512.