

## **Attendance area changes for fall 2021 and fall 2022**

Feb. 7, 2020

### ***A Message from Superintendent Greg Baker***

Dear Families,

You are receiving this message because, according to our records and the address you have listed with Bellingham Public Schools, your student(s) will be affected by new school boundaries going into effect in fall 2021 and fall 2022.

Our Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee [made a recommendation to my office in October 2019](#), and I have accepted the committee's recommendation. As you may remember from previous emails and messages, these attendance area adjustments are happening for three key reasons:

- North Bellingham keeps growing, and some of our north side schools, especially Shuksan Middle School, are over capacity.
- We are rebuilding Alderwood, Parkview and Sunnyland elementary schools over the next few years, thanks to the passage of a bond in 2018, and they'll soon have more space.
- We believe this is an opportunity to bring more socio-economic balance and diversity to our middle schools.

We are fortunate because our students and families love their schools, which means you may have questions about these changes. In our experience, once families make the transition with strong support, students and families quickly become attached to their new school.

Please review the following resources if you need more information or have questions.

### **Determine your future enrollment path by reviewing this**

**webpage:** <https://bellingshamschools.org/attendance-areas>

You'll find current and future attendance area maps. If you have questions about your new attendance area, transportation or the address you have listed with the district, you can contact the Department of Finance and Operations at 360-676-6500. Your child's principal and school office staff are also good resources.

### **Transfer process**

We understand some families may wish to submit a transfer request to either 1) enroll in their future school early or 2) remain at your current school. Please review [this webpage](#) and click on the Q&A regarding our transfer process. You can also talk with your principal or call the Department of Teaching and Learning at (360) 676-6512.

### **History of the process**

To learn more about our Attendance Areas PreK-12 Standing Committee and our process, or review meeting notes and recent messaging, you can visit [bellingshamschools.org/attendance-areas-committee](https://bellingshamschools.org/attendance-areas-committee)

Your new school's principal and staff are excited to welcome new students and support them in making a smooth and successful transition. You can expect a welcome letter from your new school(s) in 2020, as well as invitations to tour the school and meet staff.

Sincerely,

Greg Baker  
Superintendent