

Development, Maintenance & Reporting Process for 2005-10 Strategic Plan

Development:

This 2005-2010 Bellingham School District strategic plan was developed in several stages during the 2004-05 school year. The Superintendent, with input from all of the school principals, organized a Steering Committee of parents, community members, board members, principals, teachers, union representatives, staff members and the superintendent. He gave them a two-fold task:

1. Guide the development of a plan that builds on previous successes of the district; and
2. Ensure that the new plan moves the district to an even higher level of performance.

School administrators gathered more than 200 staff, family and community members in January 2005 to attend informational sessions, where they learned about the district's progress during the last several years and had an opportunity to ask questions. The participants then attended 13 focus group sessions to provide input to shape this plan. During the focus group sessions, participants generated 8,554 comments, sharing their perspectives on the district's strengths and challenges in the following areas:

- ➔ Supporting students to meet state standards in reading, writing, math and science;
- ➔ Personalizing the learning environment at all instructional levels;
- ➔ Preparing students for life beyond high school; and
- ➔ Engaging families and community members in student learning.

All comments were read, analyzed and compiled into a summary document.*

The Steering Committee and a subcommittee of a Writing Team used an analysis of the focus group comments to guide the development of the expected outcome, goals and target objectives in this 2005-2010 strategic plan. It is important to note that the focus group comments will be consulted as specific action plans are established to implement the plan.

During May 2005, the draft plan was shared publicly in numerous ways, including on the district's Web site, in staff newsletters and during a community event. The Steering Committee asked for input on the plan from community members, families, students and staff through an online survey. This input was used to revise the draft.

The Board of Directors reviewed this document in June 2005 and adopted the strategic plan in August 2005.

Maintenance and Reporting:

The District Strategic Plan will be updated regularly through each school year to reflect progress and work priorities. Progress will be reported regularly to the Board of Directors and to the community on the district's Web site, the District Annual Report and School Performance Reports. Progress will be monitored and measured according to the Measures of Progress on page five of this document.

Staff will develop district work priorities and School Strategic Plans to carry out the work outlined in the plan's goals and target objectives. These work priorities will be submitted to the Board of Directors annually each fall. In 2009, the School Board of Directors will provide feedback and direction for the next strategic planning cycle.