

# 2007-08 School Performance Report



## Options High School

Bellingham Public Schools

### Our School

Options High School continues to provide nationally recognized, research-based curriculum and instruction. This past year, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) named Options one of the top 10, high performing alternative high schools in the state. We run daily advisory classes as well as implement project-

based learning that is embedded in all content areas. Students practice the skills of researching, writing, interviewing and presenting in each class. Additionally, we have received Navigation 101 funding for the past three years to prepare students for college, career and citizenship. Study skills, using a calendar, taking Cornell notes, goal setting and planning for life beyond high school are all part of our curriculum and are skills that are specifically taught. We operate on a flexible schedule that responds to the needs of our students.

### Project-Based Learning

Project-based learning allows students to engage in deep understanding in areas of interest and relate to themes and ideas we establish in classes around content, changing the world and career possibilities. Students learn to conduct research, write scholarly papers, interview, gather primary and secondary sources, present in front of a credit panel and make connections between and among content areas.

*Continued on Page 2*

### Principal's Welcome



*Principal Gigi Morganti*

I am proud to serve as leader of Options High School. We continue to implement curriculum and offer differentiated support for students to engage in educational opportunities that are dynamic and relevant.

Studying the data from industry and the job market, we understand that there is an employment gap for students ages 18-24 in the state of Washington. It is no longer enough to have only a high school diploma. The skills necessary to succeed demand a higher level of critical thinking, problem solving and core academic knowledge than ever before.

The mission of Options High School is to support all students in preparation for college, career and citizenship, by providing a setting that enables every student to:

**Learn** through taking classes in English, science, math, history and French that are taught by highly qualified teachers and staff.

**Personalize** their education through daily student advisories, project-based learning, exhibitions and flexible schedules.

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# demographics

## Student characteristics

	Options	Bellingham School District
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As of Oct. 1, 2007

Total Enrollment	116	10,805
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Class Size Average

Grades 9-12	17	25
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Percent American Indian/Alaskan Native	8%	3%
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Percent Asian	3%	6%
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Percent Black	3%	2%
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Percent Hispanic	6%	10%
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Percent White	76%	75%
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Percent Other (includes not provided)	4%	4%
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English Language Learners (ELL)	—	564
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Highly Capable	1	320
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Indian Education	4	98
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Title I Reading	—	503
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Special Education	14	1,309
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For the 2007-08 school year

Discipline

Suspensions	26
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Expulsions	2
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Free and Reduced Meals (May 2008)	52%	33%
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Student-to-computer ratio: 1 to 1

## Expenditure per pupil

In 2006-07, the per student expenditure rate was approximately \$8,469. About 72% of the district budget was spent on teaching and teaching support, well above the state average of 69%. Funding sources: 67% from state based on enrollment; 20% from local taxes supported by the maintenance and operations levy; 8% from federal; and 5% from other sources such as donations and investment earnings.

2006-07 is the latest year data is available

# Options High School

“Learning is a choice. At Options, we choose to learn.”

Principal Gigi Morganti

## Focus on Powerful Teaching and Learning



Our staff has a strong educational background and varied experiences that strongly qualify them as high school instructors.

We continue to identify and use successful teaching strategies in all classes. Our staff regularly gets together to reflect on instruction, curriculum and student work to further increase student learning.

## Personalize Learning



Our teachers meet regularly to discuss how best to support and challenge each student, who is struggling, meeting standards or exceeding standards.

## Engage Families and Community in Student Learning



Families play an important role in the lives of Options students.

Families are encouraged to maintain open lines of communication with their child's teachers. We want to help all of our families

to sign up for ParentConnect, a free online computer program that allows you to log in and view your child's homework assignments, grades, transcripts, attendance, discipline records and school cafeteria choices. Please contact our school for more information about ParentConnect and how to get your log in and password.

## Ready for College, Career and Citizenship

High expectations combined with support help prepare *all* high school students for future education and careers.

View current and new high school graduation requirements, college entrance requirements, financial aid resources and more online at [www.bham.wednet.edu](http://www.bham.wednet.edu). See “Students.”

## Project-Based Learning, *continued*

This year, the project-based concepts are embedded into each content area. Students spend additional time on their own, outside of school, researching and accomplishing this work.



## Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL)

(Percent of grade 10 students meeting or exceeding standards)

	OPTIONS		DISTRICT		STATE	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
Reading	85%	80%	85%	87%	81%	81%
Writing	96%	94%	88%	90%	84%	86%
Math	22%	9%	65%	63%	50%	49%
Science	15%	17%	53%	52%	36%	40%

The WASL is a standards-based test used in Washington state to measure how students are progressing in meeting state academic standards. As a graduation requirement, students in the classes of 2008-2012 must pass the reading and writing WASL, a state-approved alternative to the WASL, or an assessment for students in special education. Students have a few additional options to meet the state's math requirement. The scores above represent last year's 10th graders who either took the WASL for the first time or who passed the high school WASL in previous years. The next retake opportunity is in spring 2009. Each of the four high schools in the district is providing extended day learning and support for students.

The Washington State Report Card Web site is available at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>

## “Adequate Yearly Progress”

As part of the “No Child Left Behind” (NCLB) legislation of 2001, schools and school districts are considered to be making “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) if they meet targets in various categories, including those listed below. Academic progress in reading and math must be measured for: All Students, American Indian, Asian, Black, Hispanic, White, Special Education, Limited English, and Low Income. For 2008, state targets increased in every category, some by as much as 20 percentage points. Schools and districts must have a minimum number of students in a category before it becomes a requirement for AYP, so larger districts and schools are more likely to miss targets. Missing the target in any one category causes a school or district not to make “Adequate Yearly Progress” overall. Options did not have a sufficient number of students to determine AYP in reading and math for students who met standard and participated in the WASL. Our school did not make AYP for on-time graduation rate. Some part-time Options students who also attend another district high school may be accounted for in other school's on-time graduation rates.

## Plans to Improve Learning

Staff at Options understand that the number one predictor of student achievement is teacher effectiveness. We take learning and professional development seriously. A focus on instructional coaching and research-based practice will continue to guide our work. We are also working closely with families to raise student attendance and learning so that they are successful in class and can graduate on time. We have a team of highly qualified teachers for each subject that is offered and are looking at our data to determine steps to increase student achievement in all subject areas, one student at a time.

## Principal’s Message, *Continued*

**Engage** by practicing self advocacy, participating in intersession courses and student-led conferences and learning 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and content that prepares them for post-secondary education or a high-wage career.

## On-Time Graduation and Dropout Rates

Academic Year (2006-07)	Options	District	State
<b>On-Time Graduation Rate</b>	13%	73%	72%
<b>Extended Graduation Rate</b>	29%	77%	77%
<b>Dropout Rate</b>	22%	5%	6%

Source: Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

The numbers above are calculated based upon the state’s formula for determining graduation and dropout rates. The state-calculated graduation rate represents only those students with an expected graduation year of 2007. These students would have started grade nine in 2003 and were expected to graduate “on-time” (i.e. in four years). The state-calculated extended graduation rate includes students who graduated after their expected graduation year. The state-calculated dropout rate is defined as the total number of students that drop out of school from grades nine through 12, divided by the total number of students, less the number of students that transferred out of the district/school.

\*2007 is the latest year that cohort data is available from the state. The district conducted a thorough records review of the Class of 2008 cohort that needed to meet all four graduation requirements of a high school and beyond plan, culminating project, course credits and state assessments: 73% of district students had completed all four requirements as of June 2008.

“Adequate Yearly Progress” Status			
AYP Indicators		Options 2007-08	District 2007-08
Sufficient percentage of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders who met WASL standard	Reading	N/A	yes
	Math	N/A	no (Low Income only)
At least 95% of 10 <sup>th</sup> graders participated in WASL testing	Reading	N/A	no (Low Income only)
	Math	N/A	no (Low Income only)
On-Time graduation rate		no	yes

N/A = insufficient number of students to determine AYP

The district made AYP in 50 of its 67 required categories. It did not make AYP in high school for WASL participation in reading and math for low-income students, and in WASL math proficiency for low-income students. Sanctions for not making “Adequate Yearly Progress” only affect schools and districts receiving federal Title I funding. The district does not have any Title I schools facing sanctions for the 2008-09 school year. For more information about “No Child Left Behind,” visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/ESEA/>

## History and Facility Update

Options opened in 1995. During the 2005-06 school year, a bathroom was added to the student lounge area.

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(360) 647-6871

<http://wwwopt.bham.wednet.edu/>

Principal: Gabrielle Morganti  
Secretary: Dawn Kearney

Stay informed. Register for news via  
e-mail at [www.bham.wednet.edu](http://www.bham.wednet.edu)

*The annual School Performance Report provides access to information on the educational programs in each school so that families and community members can make informed decisions about the schools in their district. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) also provides online access to more detailed data required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB). District and school report cards can be viewed at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>. Select "Bellingham School District" or the name of the school to view detailed student achievement and demographic information. Printed copies of the reports are available at schools, district offices and the Bellingham Public Library.*



1306 Dupont Street  
Bellingham, WA 98225-3118



## Accessibility

The district ensures that each program, service or activity, when reviewed in its entirety, is readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Some of our schools or programs are not accessible. Therefore, persons needing special accommodations should contact the school principal or Student Services at (360) 676-2787.

## Annual Notices

The health and safety of students and staff are paramount. The district manages vegetation and pests using a minimum of pesticides. The district uses physical, mechanical, cultural, biological and educational tactics as primary controls. Chemical controls are a last resort and the least toxic alternative is used. When pesticides are used, notification signs are posted at buildings 48 hours prior to pesticide use and for 24 hours after. Individuals wishing advance notification of pesticide use at any site may contact the Maintenance Department at the address and phone number listed below. The asbestos notification requirement is in response to the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). The district has developed and maintains an asbestos management plan, including records of surveillance, training and abatement activities. Detailed reports of both pesticide use and asbestos records are available at the Maintenance Department, 4060 Bakerview Valley Road, or by calling (360) 676-6548. The Bellingham School District maintains a Phase II Permit for Western Washington, "National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and State Waste Discharge General Permit for Discharges from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewers in Western Washington." Refer to the district Web site for contact information.

**Kèm theo đây là giấy tờ bao gồm các chi tiết quan trọng về nhà trường của con em quý vị. Xin đưa những chi tiết này cho người nào đó có thể giải thích cho quý vị hiểu càng sớm càng tốt. Cảm ơn.**

**Прилагасмый документ содержит важную информацию из школы его ребенка. Пожалуйста, попросите перевести вам эту информацию можно скорее. Спасибо.**

**Adjunto se encuentra un documento que contiene información importante de la escuela de su hijo. Por favor solicite que le traduzcan esta información tan pronto como sea posible. Muchas gracias.**

**ਨੱਥੀ ਕੀਤਾ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਰੱਖਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਇਸ ਸੂਚਨਾ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਜਿੰਨੀ ਜਲਦੀ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ ਕਰੋ। ਧੰਨਵਾਦ।**

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