



Birchwood Elementary Access and Admissions Policy



Mission Statement

At Birchwood Elementary School we strive to develop knowledgeable, skilled, compassionate, principled, and action-oriented young people. We want Birchwood students to become internationally-minded individuals who help create a better world.

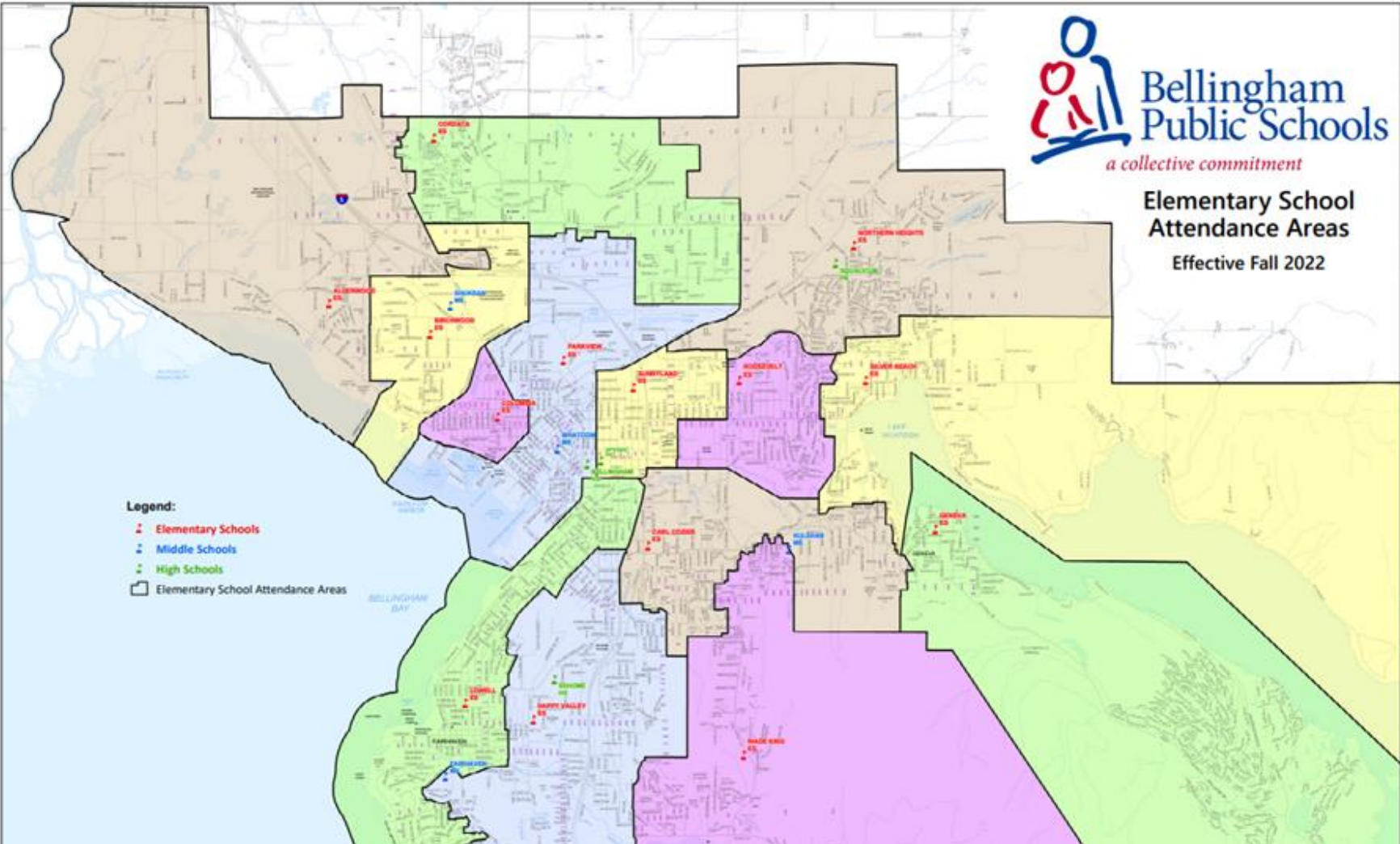
To that end, we commit ourselves to:

- Honor diversity and individuality in a safe learning environment
- Build an inclusive community where students, families, and staff collaborate with each other to help students realize their academic, creative, social, and physical potential
- Act with integrity and honesty
- Take on new challenges, learn to be resourceful and resilient, and use these skills to become lifelong learners
- Become caring, compassionate, and respectful people who have a global understanding of the world
- Make balanced and healthy choices in our lives to achieve well-being for ourselves and others
- Develop teamwork skills and share our learning with others

<https://birchwood.bellinghamschools.org/our-school/>

Admissions

Birchwood Elementary is a public elementary that is part of the Bellingham Public Schools (BPS) District. Admissions to Birchwood is based on proximity to the school and the geographical boundaries drawn by BPS. We serve all K-5 students in our attendance area.



Transfers

Families have the option to request a transfer in or out of all elementary schools. Transfer requests are reviewed by administration and approved or declined on a case-by-case basis.

Example: A family who previously attended Birchwood but has since moved out of Birchwood's attendance zone might request a transfer to stay at Birchwood

Special Programs

In addition to serving our K-5 student population, the Bellingham School District supports additional special programs as well. Students who are supported by special programs often live in Birchwood's attendance zone. However, sometimes students who are outside of our attendance zone are also admitted into the program here based on family needs. These programs are currently being analyzed for possible modification to align to a broad, district-based, inclusion initiative.

Below are some of the programs available to students in the Bellingham School District:

- Life Skills Program: The life skills program supports students with significant learning needs. We have a Promise K-2 program and a 3-5 program. Students supported in these programs spend time with Life Skills teachers as well as time in their Grade Level Classroom. Because of the specialization each student needs, schedules and supports are created individually.
- Promise Kindergarten: This program is intended for students the year before they start kindergarten. Families who have not been able to send their child to preschool are given the opportunity to enroll their child in Promise K the year before kindergarten.