



Northern Heights Elementary School IB-Primary Years Program Admissions Policy

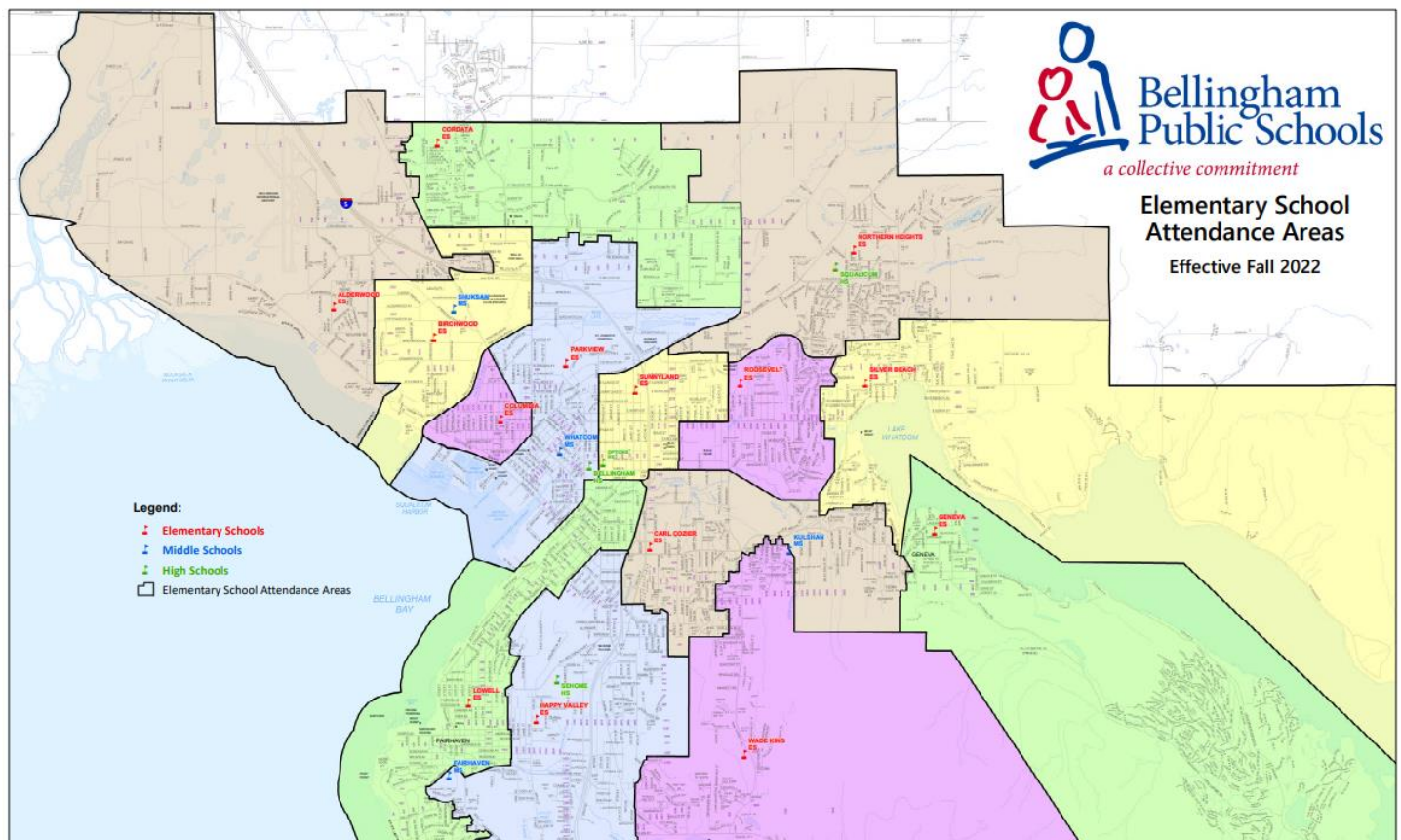


Northern Heights' Mission

Northern Heights Elementary School provides a balanced, engaging, and comprehensive education that prepares all students for success as global citizens. We strive to develop caring, principled individuals with a sense of community, who value individual differences and diverse perspectives. As reflective thinkers and inquirers, we are inspired to take actions that positively contribute to our ever-changing world.

Admissions

Northern Heights Elementary is a public elementary that is part of the Bellingham Public Schools (BPS) District. Admissions to Northern Heights Elementary 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, according to district Policy and Procedures.

- Example: A family who previously attended Northern Heights Elementary but has since moved out of Northern Heights Elementary attendance zone might request a transfer to stay at Northern Heights Elementary.

Special Programs

In addition to serving our K-5 student population, Northern Heights Elementary supports additional special programs as well. Students who are supported by special programs often live in Northern Heights Elementary attendance zone. However, sometimes students who are outside of our attendance zone are also admitted into the program based on family needs.

- 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 and have a financial need are given the opportunity to enroll their child in Promise K the year before kindergarten.
- AIMS: AIMS is a service within the general education classroom for students who require a high level of support across the school day to access the general education setting and curriculum due to sensory, social, communication, executive functioning and/or behavior needs. This program is being phased out as we move toward a more main-streamed, inclusive education system.
- Highly Capable Learners: The Bellingham School district is committed to all of Bellingham's children. We offer a continuum of services for those identified as Highly Capable to support the development of each student's fullest potential.

(Program descriptions modified from www.bellinghamschools.org with permission).

Admissions Policy Review Process

The Admissions Policy is a working document that will require review and revision as development and implementation of the PYP progresses. Bellingham Public Schools also calibrates and reviews school boundaries and attendance areas to support equity and access.

We will review the school's Admissions Policy annually in the spring of each school year. We will determine whether our Inclusion Policy accurately reflects current practice. If it does not reflect current practice, we will determine whether we need to alter our practices or the policy and make the necessary changes.

Subsequent revisions will be completed for implementation by August of each following school year.

Review of the Admissions Policy will be a collaborative process, involving all stakeholders (grade level teachers, specialist teachers, support staff, family/community, IB Coordinator, administration).

We will reach a consensus to support and implement all aspects of the Admissions Policy at the time of the review.