

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-7, Budget Planning and Execution

Date Report Submitted: 12/11/2025

Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 1/15/2026

The Board has received and reviewed the Superintendent's Monitoring Report referenced above. Following the Board's review and discussions with the Superintendent and his representatives, the Board makes the following conclusions:

Ends Reports:	Executive Limitations Reports
1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: a. has achieved the goals established in the policy or is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals. b. is making reasonable progress towards achieving the goals, but a greater degree of progress is expected for policy items noted.* c. is not making reasonable progress in achieving the goals established. * d. cannot be determined*	1. The Board finds that the Superintendent: a. is in compliance, with the acknowledgement that there is always more work to be done. b. is making reasonable progress towards compliance, except for item(s) noted.* c. is not making reasonable progress toward compliance.* d. cannot be determined*
<i>*see comments below (No. 3)</i>	

2. Please note commendable progress over the last year.

The Board recognizes and commends the district's exceptional budget leadership and financial stewardship during an extraordinarily challenging funding environment. Over the past year, the district has demonstrated sustained excellence in year-round budget planning, transparent community engagement and long-range financial strategy. These efforts are reflected in successful levy outcomes, clean audits and continued state and international recognition.

Grant acquisition efforts remain particularly impressive, with applications and awards significantly exceeding levels from a decade ago despite limited staffing and increased competition. These grants, along with expanded sponsorships and strong community partnerships, meaningfully support student health, safety and family needs. The district's proactive advocacy with legislators and state leaders further underscores its commitment to addressing systemic funding challenges.

The Board also highlights the district's collaborative relationships with labor partners and the broader community, reflecting shared priorities and collective problem-solving in support of the Bellingham Promise. Overall, the district's planning, communication and

Monitoring Response Document

Policy Monitored: EL-7, Budget Planning and Execution

Date Report Submitted: 12/11/2025

Date of Board's Monitoring Response: 1/15/2026

execution continue to stand out as a model of responsible governance and community-centered leadership.

3. Please note areas for additional improvement.

None.

4. Comments on the report itself.

Overall, the report was received positively with no substantive concerns raised. Members found it helpful and well-prepared, particularly noting the value of the italicized sections and the inclusion of "learnings."

5. Possible changes to the policy.

None.