

The strategic plan was updated in 1998 by a team of community members from the Bellingham schools, students and staff members. They created “Pathways to the 21st Century”

with a focus on literacy, personalization and connecting with families.

In 2000, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation recognized the Bellingham School District as a model of achievement and awarded the district a \$4.49 million grant to be used over a five year period to accelerate the work of reaching the following three goals:

1. Having 90 percent of students meeting literacy standards by 2005;
2. Creating personal, individualized support for all students; and
3. Using technology to enhance parent-teacher communication and collaboration.

Through the leadership of the Board of Directors and administration, the dedicated work of staff and continued support from the community, Bellingham was selected as one of the 10 highest performing schools in the state.