



School Supplies for Fall 2011

What Data Shows

Earlier this school year, staff at Bellingham Public Schools collected data that showed wide discrepancies regarding the amount and cost of school supplies that families were being asked to buy. Costs to families from school supply purchases from summer 2010 varied widely, an example being \$77 in grade four at one school to \$18 in kindergarten at another school. The high costs and inconsistencies caused hardship for families, both in lost time and money, according to feedback from the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee.

GOALS:

- Reduce the school supply financial hardship to families as much as possible over time;
- Eliminate waste for supplies that aren't used by the end of the year as well as parents' time and gas money; and
- Support families in using time saved from school supply shopping to focus on setting learning goals for the new school year and planning for time and space at home for reading and homework.



1306 Dupont Street
Bellingham, WA 98225

360-676-6400 phone

www.bellinghamschools.org

One Schoolhouse

Through Superintendent Greg Baker's Entry Plan Report, One Schoolhouse has been identified as one of four focus areas for Bellingham Public Schools. Functioning as One Schoolhouse with all 22 schools and Central Services helps us strive for excellence and equity for all. In this spirit, a long-term goal has been set for the district to eventually cover more costs of basic school supplies and pass on fewer fees and costs associated with education to our families. However, with state funding cuts, we will only be able to take an initial step in this direction for fall 2011. **We are excited to announce that beginning in fall 2011, we will only ask our elementary families to bring three items for first day supplies.** The District's Central Services is working

with principals to purchase other classroom supplies in bulk. Middle school supply lists have not been standardized yet. High schools have been taking initial steps to reduce and standardize course fees.

First Day Supply List

GRADES K-5:

- Backpack
- Binder or notebook
- Pencil box or pouch

GRADES 6-8:

For Fairhaven, Kulshan, Shuksan and Whatcom middle schools supply lists, please visit www.bellinghamschools.org/schoolsupplylists.

GRADES 9-12:

For the first day, bring a pad of paper and a pen. Supply lists will be given out by teachers during the first class sessions.

