

# Playgrounds

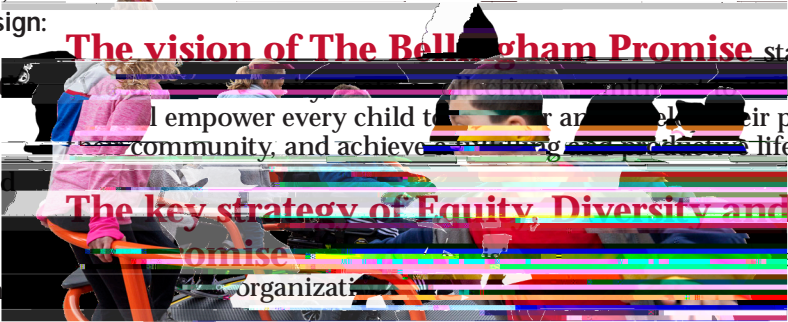
All school spaces are learning spaces, and our playgrounds are outdoor classrooms providing critical learning opportunities through play.

In Bellingham Public Schools, we design playgrounds to support healthy child development and physically literate\* children.

When we design playgrounds and outdoor learning spaces, we begin with universal design:

an environment that is usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

The foundation of this thinking in Bellingham Public Schools is found in our strategic plan The Bellingham Promise.



**The vision of The Bellingham Promise** states:

"I empower every child to discover and pursue their passions, contribute to their community, and achieve a successful life."

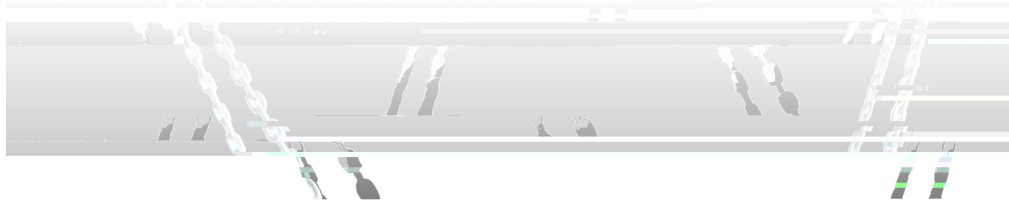
**The key strategy of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in The Bellingham Promise**

is to create a diverse, inclusive organizational culture.

**Action and character outcomes in The Promise**

support our playground design work. These outcomes include developing students and graduates who are:

## Values Statement

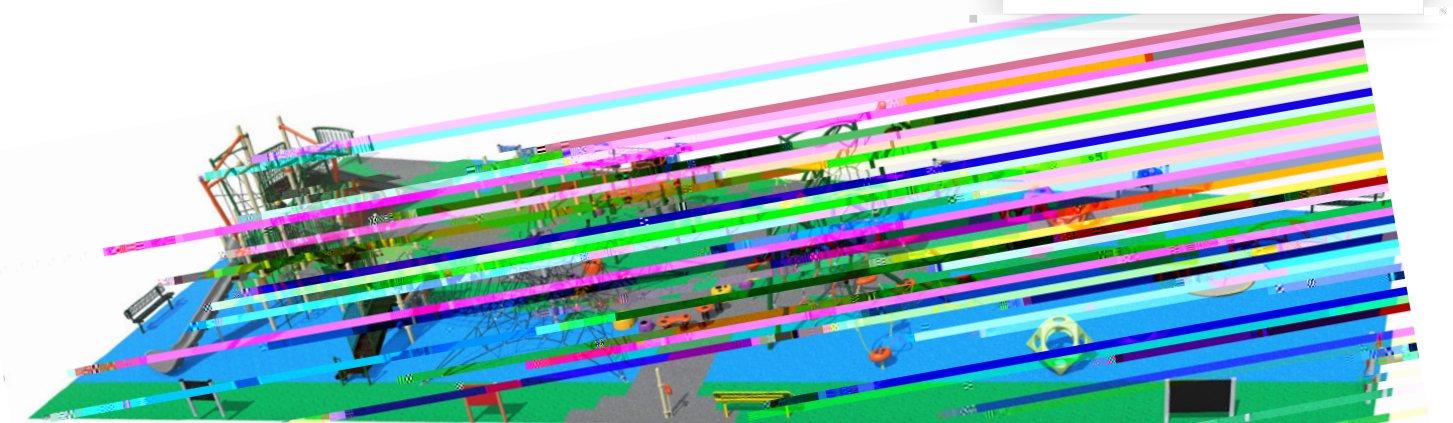
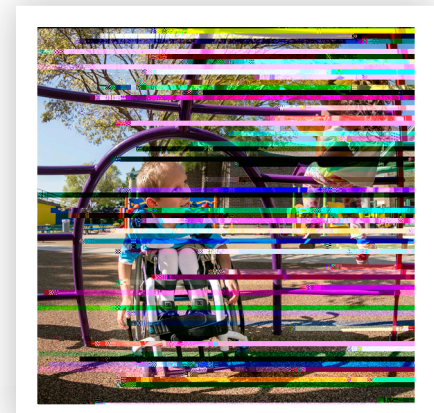


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# Definitions

UNIVERSAL DESIGN <span>➤</span>	INCLUSIVE DESIGN <span>➤</span>	ACCESSIBLE DESIGN
<p>Products and environments are usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.</p>	<p>An inclusive playground considers not just physical equipment, but also emotional, social, and psychological benefits of play. It encompasses the philosophy that children and adults of all abilities benefit from being able to play and interact together.</p>	<p>Accessible design meets the environmental and communication needs of the functional limitations of people with disability. Accessible design aims to meet minimum ADA requirements to achieve usability.</p>
FIVE OF SEVEN SENSES	VESTIBULAR STIMULATION	PROPIOCEPTION
<p>Five of our seven senses are important on playgrounds: sight, sound, tactile, vestibular and proprioceptive. (We leave the senses of taste and smell in the cafeteria!)</p>		<p>Proprioception is the perception or awareness of the position and movement of the body.</p>
PHYSICAL LITERACY		
<p>The motivation, confidence, physical competence, knowledge and understanding to value and take responsibility for engagement in physical activities for life. —from the International Physical Literacy Association</p>		



## Resources

The playground values of the Playgrounds Standards Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee were based on the following resources and presentations:

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1. Surfacing
2. Perimeter containment
3. The coolest thing is accessible to all
4. Fun and challenging for all
5. Includes zones
6. Sensory play
7. Social/cooperative play

