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BSD Survey on High Schools

Western Washington University. Office of Survey Research

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Interviewer initials _____

ID _____

BSD survey on high schools

Bellingham School District is seeking input about the best ways to shape its future high school programs. I need to give you a bit of background and then I have a few questions.

Currently, all high schools offer the same academic and extra-curricular programs. The district could also offer special or advanced programs, but only if each was offered at only one school, instead of all three. Many advanced programs are too costly or require too many facilities to offer at all three schools, but they might be affordable if they were offered at only one.

So to have special advanced programs, each would have to be located at one or the other of the three high schools, and some students would have to travel between schools for part of their day to participate in programs of their choice.

Our question for you is this: for each possible special program I will list, do you think the district should develop the program if it would be available at only one high school, and some students would need to travel between schools to participate?

1. The first list of program options I will read are all advanced programs for juniors and seniors only. Here, each high school would have the same introductory level courses, and ONE school would also offer a more intensive, advanced program.

To begin, Do you think the District should develop a Computer Technology Specialization if it would be available at only one high school, not at all three? Would you say... Definitely.... Probably.... Undecided... Probably not.... or Definitely not?

	DEF	PROB	?	PROB NOT	DEF NOT
a. COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIZATION	1	2	3	4	5

Second is an Advanced fine and performing arts program. [REPEAT SCALE AS NEC]

b. ADVANCED FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS	1	2	3	4	5
c. Advanced mathematics and sciences	1	2	3	4	5
d. Communication media specialization	1	2	3	4	5
e. Health professions specialization	1	2	3	4	5
f. Advanced foreign languages	1	2	3	4	5
g. Manufacturing technology	1	2	3	4	5

2. Now I will read another list of possible specialized or advanced programs, but these would cover all four years of high school, not just the junior and senior years. Should the district develop each of these four-year special-focus programs at only one high school? Again, please answer Definitely... Probably... Undecided... Probably not.... or Definitely not. First, a...

	DEF	PROB	?	PROB NOT	DEF NOT
a. Performing Arts specialization	1	2	3	4	5
b. Foreign languages & global studies	1	2	3	4	5
c. Environmental Science	1	2	3	4	5
d. An international baccalaureate, which is an advanced college preparatory program recognized internationally	1	2	3	4	5
e. An industry and technology specialization	1	2	3	4	5

3. Do you have any additional suggestions about the programs I've listed or any others the district should consider for its high schools?

4. The same issues of limited funding and facilities also apply to extra-curricular activities such as interschool sports. We want to know whether you think the district should offer the full range of activities at all three high schools or should consider specializing some extra-curricular programs at one or two of the schools. First, should the full range of interschool sports be offered at all three high schools? Would you say... Definitely... Probably... Undecided... Probably not.... or Definitely not?

	DEF	PROB	?	PROB NOT	DEF NOT
a. INTERSCHOOL SPORTS	1	2	3	4	5
b. How about other extracurricular activities such as drama and music?	1	2	3	4	5

5. Now lets return to academic program options, but ask a different question: Imagine that you have a high school son or daughter who expresses interest in one of the advanced programs for juniors and seniors that we have talked about, but that the program is not available at the high school your child is attending. Would you... encourage your son or daughter to participate in the program by commuting and attending the other school part-time... encourage your child to change schools entirely and attend full-time at the school with the program... or... discourage your child from entering the program?

1. COMMUTE PT. TIME 2. MOVE FULL-TIME 3. DISCOURAGE 9. D.K.

6. Now, imagine that your son or daughter is just entering high school as a freshman and expresses interest in one of the four-year programs we have discussed. In that case, would you... encourage your son or daughter to participate in the program by commuting and attending the other school part-time... encourage your child to change schools entirely and attend full-time at the school with the program... or... discourage your child from entering the program?

1. COMMUTE PT. TIME 2. MOVE FULL-TIME 3. DISCOURAGE 9. D.K.

7. We would like to get your evaluation of Bellingham schools. First, would you say elementary schools in Bellingham are.... Excellent...Good...Fair...or ..Poor.... or do you feel you have too little information to know? [REPEAT SCALE AS NEC.]

	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	D. K.
a. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	1	2	3	4	9
b. How about Middle Schools?	1	2	3	4	9
c. High Schools?	1	2	3	4	9

8. We are also interested in where you get your information about Bellingham schools. Would you say you get most... some... or none of your information from each of the sources I will read?

	MOST	SOME	NONE	D. K.
a. Local radio or TV	1	2	3	9
b. Local newspapers	1	2	3	9
c. District or school newsletters	1	2	3	9
d. Personal contact with schools, school staff, or students	1	2	3	9
e. Word of mouth	1	2	3	9

9. Do you remember receiving the District newsletter, Your Bellingham Schools, in the mail?

1. NO --> **SKIP TO Q 12, TOP OF NEXT PAGE**
 2. YES--> **CONTINUE**

10. Would you say you typically read....

1. all 2. most 3. half 4. some or 5. none of it?

IF NONE, SKIP TO Q 12, TOP OF NEXT PAGE

11. How useful have you found it? Would you say....

1. very 2. moderately 3. somewhat or 4. not very useful?

Q.12. Thanks. We have just a couple of other questions, to let us understand more about the people we've talked to. First, do you have children who have attended school in the Bellingham School District or who will probably do so?

1. NO --> **SKIP TO Q 14.**

2. YES

13. What are their ages?: _____

14. Did you attend high school in Bellingham? 1. NO 2. YES

15. Do you live north or south of Lakeway? 1. NORTH 2. SOUTH

16. Do you live east or west of I-5? 1. EAST 2. WEST

17. What is the highest level of education you have completed? (BEGIN READING CATEGORIES)

- 1 . Less than high school 2 . High school or GED 3 . Some college or AA
4 . College degree 5 . Graduate degree 9 . N.A.

18. What category does your age fall into? (BEGIN READING CATEGORIES)

1. Under 20 2. 20's 3. 30's 4. 40's 5. 50's
6. 60's 7. 70s or above

19. Finally, many of us miss school bond elections. It would be useful for us to know whether you were able to vote in the most recent one, last February.

1. YES, VOTED 2. DID NOT VOTE 9. DON'T RECALL

Thanks very much for your time!

INTERVIEWER:	SEX:	1. MALE	2. FEMALE	9. D.K.
	SAMPLE:	1. PHONE BOOK	2. PARENT	