



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Bellevue Schools Foundation Delivers Lifeline for Students Amid Budget Cuts

**Impact Report shows thousands of students supported through mental health screenings, preschool access, and computer science integration as BSD works toward financial recovery.**

**BELLEVUE, Wash.** – At a time when schools across Washington and the nation are facing difficult budget realities, the Bellevue School District (BSD) is celebrating the crucial role of the Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF) in ensuring all 20,000+ District students have the resources they need to thrive from preschool to graduation.

The newly released **2024–2025 Impact Report** shows how Bellevue Schools Foundation funding is transforming classrooms, supporting teachers, and ensuring equity across Bellevue.

- **7,013 students** received mental health screenings; **80% report improved coping skills.**
- **100% of transitional kindergarten students** met or exceeded expectations in the areas of social-emotional and literacy.
- **39 teachers** achieved or renewed National Board Certification, making BSD one of only four districts in the nation with over 40% of teachers nationally certified.

### Meeting the Mental Health Crisis Head-On

According to the CDC, persistent sadness and suicidal thoughts among youth have risen by 40% in the past decade. [With BSF's support](#), BSD responded with screenings, interventions, and therapy for thousands of students. An alarming trend tracked closely by the District is the percentage of students who report signs of anxiety and depression prior to entering middle school. Approximately 17% of students at the elementary level were reported to show signs of anxiety and depression.

"This work isn't just numbers — it's lives," said Dr. Aramaki, Bellevue School District Superintendent. "In a time of financial challenge, the Bellevue Schools Foundation ensures our students are seen, supported, and given hope."

### Preparing Students for the Future of AI

The foundation and district partnerships with **Amazon Future Engineers, Microsoft, and Code.org** are making computer science accessible to every student. A kindergartener at Ardmore Elementary shared, "I love Computer Science because I can build anything." Notably, students who are traditionally underrepresented in STEM and Computer Science (girls and students of color) continue to improve in their dispositions toward the field with 97% of students in 8th grade reporting that they believe anyone who practices can learn to code and improve in computer science.

### A Legacy of Support and Partner in Recovery

As BSD works toward financial recovery and navigates necessary budget cuts, BSF remains a vital partner in sustaining programs that might otherwise disappear.

Established in 1979, Bellevue Schools Foundation is the first foundation dedicated to supporting public K-12 initiatives in Washington state. Since its inception, over \$40M has been donated from individuals, corporations, and institutions committed to providing students in Bellevue the education they deserve. From preschool tuition payments for families who can't afford enrollment otherwise, to advanced teacher training, BSF steps in and up to ensure that Washington state students are not left behind. While [Bellevue ranks #4](#) in the nation for its quality of life,

school districts in Washington state receive insufficient funding to support its public schools. The state ranks #32 in the nation in per pupil spending as a percentage of taxpayer income, and Washington ranks well below the national average for investment in K-12 education as a percentage of Gross State Product (the state's output) at 3.11%. While advocacy efforts to address the public-school funding dilemma are ongoing, [including a convening for all Washington superintendents](#) which is partially funded by BSF, students and teachers need funding now. Bellevue Schools Foundation will be providing Bellevue School District with \$1,150,000 in funding for the 2025-2026 school year.

Bellevue Schools Foundation Executive Director, Juliet Buder, shares, "If student needs are growing as public funding is dwindling, providing a high-quality public education across Washington appears to be an impossible challenge to solve at first glance. But our Impact Report offers an inspiring view of the future in which Bellevue Schools Foundation can leverage individual philanthropy and corporate partnerships to create the educational opportunities all students deserve."

## GET INVOLVED

For more details or to support this work, visit [bellevueschoolsfoundation.org](https://bellevueschoolsfoundation.org).

The Bellevue School District, with over 20,000 students and 28 schools, is a diverse and dynamic district in East King County, Washington. Its mission is "To serve each and every student academically, socially, and emotionally through a rigorous and relevant education that is innovative and individualized. As a learning community that values one another's humanity, we provide courageous support for an equitable and exceptional education for all students."