

Glossary of Frequently Used Terms and Acronyms

Acronym or Term	Definition
AEP	Academic Extension Program. A pilot program for identified second grade gifted readers. Designated classroom teachers implement a hybrid curriculum, combining skill and text from the standard literacy curriculum, Journeys, and the supplemental curriculum, Jacob's Ladder Reading Comprehension Program. The curriculum will help students develop advanced skills in reading comprehension and critical thinking. A review of the pilot program will occur at the end of the 2011-2012 school year.
AP	Advanced Placement. Students in grades 9-12 may participate in AP courses . AP courses are academically rigorous courses that help prepare students to be successful after high school. In contrast to many other districts, we encourage all our high school students to take AP courses.
ASB	Associated Student Body. The official organization that oversees middle and high school program of sports, clubs and other extracurricular activities. Students must pay a fee to participate in ASB-sponsored activities. Those who cannot afford to pay these fees should see a counselor to apply for a scholarship to cover them.
AVID	Advancement Via Individual Determination. AVID is a student-support program designed to ensure that all students, especially the students in the middle, complete a college preparatory path. AVID teaches study skills and questioning strategies to help these students succeed.
AYP	Adequate Yearly Progress. AYP measures each school and district's success or failure in meeting annual targets in reading and math proficiency. The No Child Left Behind Act requires that every student be proficient in reading and math by 2014. Test scores are separated, by grade, into nine different groups or cells. Those subgroups are all students; English Language Learners (ELL); students whose family incomes make them eligible for free-and reduced-price lunches; African American, Asian, White, Hispanic, and Native American students; and special education students. Every

	cell must meet the same proficiency targets. Yearly progress summaries are available here .
Back to School Night	Also called “Curriculum Night”. This is a schoolwide event that takes place in the evening with every classroom teacher discussing what students are learning and what the teacher expects from both students and parents.
BECCA	A state law that requires students to attend school regularly and has very specific consequences for those who do not. More details .
Breakfast Program	Breakfast is offered in some schools. Free or reduced-priced breakfast is offered to children who qualify for free- and reduced-prices lunches. (<i>see below</i>)
Conferences	Parent-teacher conferences are private meetings held at elementary and middle schools between parents and teachers. It’s important to attend the conferences to discuss your child’s strengths and areas for improvement. Each school sets its own schedule for conferences. You may also contact your child’s teacher at any time if you wish to discuss your child’s progress in school.
Counselor	School counselors help in many ways, such as working with students to solve personal or behavior problems, choose courses in middle and high school, plan for college, find outside resources, monitor student progress and meet with parents.
Curriculum Night	Also called “Back to School Night”. This is a schoolwide event that takes place in the evening with every classroom teacher discussing what students are learning and what the teacher expects from both students and parents.
District	Short-hand for School District. The Bellevue School District is made up of 16 elementary schools, 5 middle schools, 4 high schools, and 2 alternative middle/high schools. The District is led by Superintendent Amalia Cudeiro. Five community members make up the Bellevue School board of Directors. The District is responsible for establishing the curriculum taught at each grade level, hiring staff and providing schools with funds for various needs.
Early Dismissal	On Wednesdays, school is dismissed early. The early dismissal days allow teachers time to work together in grade

	level teams and attend special training. 2011-2012 School dismissal times .
Emergency Contact Information	Up-to-date phone numbers where parents can be reached in case of an emergency during the school day. Parents must notify the school whenever their phone number changes.
EOC	End of Course Exam. EOC exams in Math are new state tests, as of June 2011. The math HSPE test has been discontinued. The EOC Biology exam will be given for the first time in June 2012. It replaces the previous science HSPE. Graduation requirements vary, depending on the year. More information .
ESL/ELL	English as a Second Language or English Language Learners. Students whose native language is not English and who are not completely fluent in English receive English language instruction. More information .
Family Connection Centers	Family Connection Centers, located in some elementary schools, serve families across the District by providing resources such as backpacks and used clothing for children. They also connect families to agencies that can help them with legal, financial, personal or health problems.
Field Trip	A field trip is when a group of students, along with chaperones, travels to another location for a learning activity that is connected to the classrooms. Common field trips are to museums, theaters, colleges and environmental education centers.
Free- and Reduced-Price Lunch	Some students are eligible to receive school lunches for free or at a reduced cost, based on their family's annual income. The identity of students participating in this program is completely confidential. Families must fill out an application form for this program. Forms are available online and at each school.
Gifted Program	Students with high academic and intellectual ability who pass a special test may qualify for Gifted education programs. More information .
Homework	Homework that teachers assign varies by class and grade, but most teachers require students to do some form of schoolwork outside of class. Homework is a way to extend classroom learning and practice specific skills. If you have

	concerns about your child's homework, contact your classroom teacher.
HSPE	High School Proficiency Exam. The HSPE in reading and writing are taken by all grade 10 students in March. Students in the class of 2012 must pass a reading and writing assessment to be eligible to graduate. Students in the classes of 2013 and 2014 must pass exams in reading, writing and one end-of-course math exam (see above) in order to graduate. More information.
IB	International Baccalaureate. The IB diploma program is an academically rigorous college preparatory program which focuses on classical liberal arts and sciences. A full IB program is offered at Interlake High School. Students in IB courses earn college credit if they perform well on national IB exams.
IEP	Individual Education Plan. These plans are developed for students with certain kinds of disabilities who have been identified as needing Special Education.
IHP	Individual Health Plan. If your child has health concerns that may impact their learning or safety at school, an IHP can be developed, with input from you, your health care provider and the School Nurse. More information.
ILT	Instructional Leadership Team. Each school in the District has established an Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) and Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The ILT includes the school Principal and a group representing certificated teaching staff. The PLC involves all certificated staff in the school. The ILT and PLC establish goals to improve student learning and determine strategies for reaching those goals. Staff members take part in professional development around those strategies, practice with peers and open their classrooms to observe each other's teaching strategies.
LAP	Learning Assistance Program. This is a supplemental program offered in some schools specifically for students needing extra support with reading skills. Contact your classroom teacher if you think your child is in need of these services. More information.
Lunch	Students may bring their own lunch or purchase their lunch in the school cafeteria. Lunch prices are established at the

	beginning of each school year. Menus are available online .
MAP	M asurement of A cademic P rogress. MAP is a computerized adaptive test that allows teachers, administrators and parents/guardians to track a student's growth over time, as well as to identify areas of strength and needed improvement.
MSP	M easurements of S tudent P rogress. The MSP is the state's exam for students in grades 3-8. More information .
NBCT	N ational B oard C ertified T eacher. Teachers who achieve National Board Certification have met rigorous standards through intensive study, expert evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. The Bellevue School District has more than 265 National Board-Certified Teachers.
NCLB	N o C hild L eft B ehind. Under the 2002 NCLB Act, states are required to test students in reading and math in grades 3-8 and once in high school. All students are expected to meet or exceed state standards in reading and math by 2014.
Nurse	School nurses work at least one day a week in every school. One of their responsibilities is to make sure that children with special health needs have a plan in place and that all staff can implement the plan.
OT	O ccupational T herapist. An OT works with students who have been identified as needing Special Education services by helping them improve the functioning of fine motor skills lost through illness or injury. An example of a fine motor skill is holding a pencil or writing.
PAAC	P arent A ction and A dvisory C ommittee. The PAAC parent group works to promote the highest levels of academic achievement for all students, with a special focus on English Language Learners and culturally and racially diverse students. PAAC takes an action-oriented approach to develop programs and practices that create the conditions for parent involvement and student success. More information .
Picture Day	All students have a class picture taken. These pictures are printed in the school yearbook. At high schools, they are used on ASB cards. Photos are available for purchase.

PIV	Parent Internet Viewer. The PIV provides parents and students online access to attendance, grade and assignment information in a real-time atmosphere, as well as access to the BSD curriculum. The PIV provides <i>unofficial</i> progress information. Official end-of-term grades are mailed home.
PLC	Professional Learning Communities. Each school in the District has established an Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) and Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The ILT includes the school Principal and a group representing certificated teaching staff. The PLC involves all certificated staff in the school. The ILT and PLC establish goals to improve student learning and determine strategies for reaching those goals. Staff members take part in professional development around those strategies, practice with peers and open their classrooms to observe each other's teaching strategies.
PRISM	The PRISM program provides students of exceptionally high academic and intellectual ability with a challenging, accelerated, integrated and enriched curriculum in core subject areas. More information.
Progress Reports/ Report Cards	Teachers prepare progress reports for elementary students 3 times a year and report cards for middle and high school students 4 times per year.
PT	Physical Therapist. A PT works with students who have been identified as needing Special Education services by helping them improve the functioning of gross motor skills. An example of a gross motor skill is moving in or out of a wheel chair.
PTA or PTSA	Parent Teacher Association or Parent Teacher Student Association. This group of parent volunteers provides many services for schools including sponsoring social events and school-wide educational programs. PTA volunteers help schools stretch their resources. If you are interesting in volunteering or would like more information, ask in your school office or click here.
Resource Room	Students who are identified as needing Special Education services, generally under guidelines set up in a child's IEP (<i>see above</i>), may be assigned to a Resource Room. Students are pulled from their regular classroom for these specialized services.

Room Parents or Classroom Parent Volunteers	Parents who volunteer in their student's elementary classroom. They often help to plan parties, but also assist teachers with office tasks and help individual students.
School Calendar	The District school year calendar is available here . Schools also have individual calendars posted on their websites. Link to individual school calendars .
School Newsline	Parents can call the School Newsline to hear a recorded message and find out if schools are closed because of snow or other weather-related emergencies. The School Newsline number is 425-456-4111 .
SLP	Speech Language Pathologist. A SLP works with students who have been identified as needing Special Education services by diagnosing and providing services to students with speech and communication disorders.
Social Workers	Mental health specialists from community agencies such as Youth Eastside Services, who, when parents give their permission, work with students to solve specific problems such as coping with parents' divorce, eating disorders, and alcohol and drug abuse.
Title 1	A federally funded program that allows schools to provide extra help for students in certain middle and elementary schools in reading and mathematics. More information .
Tutorial	A 30-minute period immediately following the final class of the day in all middle and high schools for students to complete their homework or ask teachers for help.
VIBES	Volunteers In Bellevue's Education System. This is a District program that recruits and trains parent and community volunteers to spend time with a child each week working on homework, providing other academic support or just being a friend the child can talk to. You may request a VIBES volunteer tutor for your child by talking to his or her teacher. To become a VIBES volunteer, call 425-456-4154 or click here .