

# DISTRICT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

## **TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES**

Technology resources are available for students (K-12) in both classrooms and lab settings. Schools are fully networked, allowing all students in every school to access computers and other technology as tools for learning. With the use of networked information sources, students research and compile information from local resources and the internet. Students have access to data from school to school, within the community, around the state, across the nation, and throughout the world. Internet sites are filtered in accordance with state and federal guidelines. We have a district wide internet "acceptable use" agreement that will require student and/or parent signature(s) in order for students to access the internet at school. As per state law, Cyber bullying is illegal. It is sometimes referred to as online social cruelty or electronic bullying; can involve: sending mean, vulgar, or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that person look bad; intentionally excluding someone from an online group. For more information go to: <http://stopbullyingnow.gov>.

The primary goal of technology use in Blaine School District is to increase student achievement in all content areas.

## **TITLE I & LEARNING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Title I is a federally funded program designed to provide academic enrichment activities to help students in reading. Children are eligible for service based on academic need.

Title I/LAP support is available for children grades K-12 focusing on the academic areas of reading and math. Eligibility is based on the needs of the student as identified by an evaluation following teacher referral. If you feel your child is not performing in the average range academically, please contact your child's principal or teacher to have your child screened for Title I or LAP academic support.

## **EDUCATION OF YOUTH IN HOMELESS SITUATIONS**

The McKinney-Vento Act is a federal law passed in 1987 to help people experiencing homelessness. Part of the law protects the rights of children and youth to go to school. In

2001, Congress changed the law to give more rights to children, youth and families who are homeless. For more information, contact the District Office at 332-5881.

## **DRUG AND ALCOHOL COUNSELING**

Drug and alcohol counseling is available through a Substance Abuse Counselor who conducts individual counseling, consultation, pre-screening assessments, referrals, and support services for students and families. The counselor provides support for students impacted by drugs, alcohol and/or tobacco either at home, among friends or their own personal use.

The Substance Abuse Counselor is available to meet for individual sessions. Students may schedule an appointment Monday through Friday at 332-0740.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATION**

Special Education services are available for young people ages birth to 21 who may have special needs. Special concerns may be with hearing, vision, speech, language, health, learning, developmental delay, behavior management, birth defects or other disabilities. If you have a student you feel may have some special concerns, please contact the school district. Each school has a guidance team made up of the district's psychologist, nurse, speech/language pathologist, counselors, teachers, and building administrators. This team meets to discuss those students being considered for special education. Parents are involved in guidance team decisions and written permission is required before a student is assessed for special education. If a child is eligible for special education, the parents, teacher, and other support staff work together to develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP). A variety of special education options are available to ensure each child's needs are met. The following specialists are available to assist all preschool to grade 12 students: psychologist, counselors, speech/language pathologists, vision specialist, special education teachers and occupational/physical therapist. Special Education policies and procedures are available for review by the public and are available at the District Office, 332-5881.

## **CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION, ASSESSMENT**

Blaine School District prides itself upon the fact that we educate students to achieve high standards. When you review our assessment results, you will see that we consistently improve and score similarly to, if not better than, Washington State students as a whole.

**Curriculum:** Developing and maintaining a solid standards-based core curriculum that aligns with state grade level expectations is the District's most basic requirement. Washington State has developed Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALR'S) which describe learning standards for grades K-10 at three benchmark levels; elementary, middle and high school.

**Instruction:** Our goal is to teach so that all students make academic gains. Teachers work collaboratively to learn and share ideas. Our Learning Improvement Days are one great resource for us to get together and align the things we teach students from one grade and one content to the next. We are fortunate for this opportunity and critical time. We also use these days to hear from experts in various curricular areas across the spectrum.

**Assessment:** The Washington State Education Reform Law of 1993 created state standards and the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) to measure progress toward meeting those standards. Later the state passed additional legislation requiring students to pass state assessment in reading and writing to be eligible for a high school diploma. Beginning in 2009-10 school year, two new tests replaced the WASL that was given as the state assessment from Spring 1997 to Summer 2009. The new tests are shorter but just as rigorous as the WASL.

**Measurement of Student Progress: (MSP)** The goal of this test for students in grades 3-8 is, as the name would suggest, "To Measure Student Progress."

**High School Proficiency Exam: (HSPE)** This test measures the proficiency of students in grades 10-12 and serves as the state's exit exam. End-Of-Course exams for high school math will debut in Spring 2011 by state law. The EOC will replace the Math HSPE. Students in the class of 2013 and 2014 will now have to pass only one end-of-course math exam to be eligible for a diploma.