

**Chapter 14**

**PUBLIC EDUCATION**

The Birch Bay community planning area is being serviced by the Blaine and Ferndale School Districts. The boundary between the two School Districts runs north and south about one half mile west of the Kickerville Road. West of that boundary is the Blaine School District and east of that boundary is the Ferndale School District.

**Blaine School District**

The Blaine School District operates five schools. Four schools, a primary, an elementary, middle and a high school are located on a unified school campus in the City of Blaine. A primary school with grades kindergarten through second grade is located at Point Roberts. Blaine School District students are being bussed to the unified school campus site in Blaine. The grade configuration at the Blaine School District is that the primary school consists of grades kindergarten through grade two, the elementary school consists of grades three through grade five, the middle school consists of grades six through eight, and the high school consists of grades nine through twelve. Table 14-1 shows the current and projected student population at the Blaine School District.

**Table 14-1  
Current and Projected Student Population**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2012</b>
K-2	469	720
3-5	491	655
6-8	475	594
9-12	452	622
Total	1,887	2,591

The citizens in the Blaine School District in 2001 passed a \$19.7 million bond issue to add classroom space, modernize old and antiquated facilities and generally improve the safety and efficiency of the operation on the school campus in Blaine. The student population projections indicate that by year 2012, there will

be an additional 704 students. At current Blaine School District standards that amounts to two new schools. The unified school site at Blaine is already built out and any new school to be constructed needs to be located outside the unified campus. Due to its high volume of student generation, Birch Bay area is a likely candidate for an elementary (K-5) school site.

The Birch Bay Community is very much interested in having an elementary school located in the Birch Bay area. About one-half of the enrollment at the Blaine School District is made up of students coming from the Birch Bay area. A desired option is to locate and develop in the Birch Bay area, a community center consisting of an elementary school, a park and recreation facility, and possibly a library and other civic buildings such as a community center building, etc. If the Birch Bay area were to incorporate, the community center complex may also include a city hall and other municipal services buildings.

## **Ferndale School District**

As stated earlier, only a very small part of the Birch Bay Community planning area is in the Ferndale School District. That area is now and is proposed to remain in rural development use. Being a rural area with low density development the area generates very few students. Therefore, the Birch Bay's impact on the Ferndale School District is negligible or very low.

## **Desired Education Future**

### **Vision Statement - Public Education**

***Education.** Birch Bay now has a school. The Blaine School District has built an elementary school in the area and has named it Birch Bay School. It is centrally located, adjacent to other civic buildings and recreational facilities. The school is a high-tech center, not only for elementary students but also for adults taking evening courses in arts and other humanities and improving their internet skills. The school is also equipped with a sizable auditorium and meeting rooms, functioning as an after-school community center. Fiber optic cable service that was a rarity a few years ago can now be found spread throughout the Community.*

## **Public Education – Goals**

- Goal ED 1: To work with the Blaine School District to locate an elementary school in Birch Bay.
- Goal ED 2: To foster educational opportunities for all ages and interests.
- Goal ED 3: To work cooperatively with other agencies, especially the City of Blaine, the Blaine School District and Fire Districts 7 and 13 in providing facilities and programs relating to both community education and health.

## **Action Strategies**

1. Encourage the Blaine School District to purchase a school site in the Birch Bay Community planning area.
2. Encourage the Blaine School District to purchase a 40 acre site in anticipation that about 25 acres of this land will be acquired and developed into a community center use.
3. As an option, the Blaine School District may want to purchase outright 15 acres for an elementary school site and purchase a long-term option to acquire the rest.
4. The location of the proposed elementary school site or community center school site should take into consideration the updated Birch Bay Community Plan land use and transportation layouts.