

# Highline Public Schools

Dr. Ivan Duran, Superintendent

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# Our Promise

Every student in Highline Public Schools is known by **name, strength and need**, and graduates prepared for the **future they choose.**



# Where Are We?



# More About Highline



**34**

schools



**~17,500**

students



**80**

community partners



**82.4%**

graduation rate



**37%**

of students speak a  
first **language**  
other than English



**89**

languages  
spoken



## CULTURE OF BELONGING

A culture where all are welcome, valued, and safe.



## INNOVATIVE LEARNING

Academic experiences that engage, empower, and challenge every student.



## BILINGUAL & BILITERATE

Multicultural skills that enable students to live, work, and communicate across cultures.



## FUTURE READY

Students explore possibilities and develop mindsets that prepare them for a changing future.

*Our Promise: Every student is known by **name**, **strength** and **need**, and graduates prepared for the **future** they choose.*

# Culture of Belonging

*A culture where all are welcome, valued, and safe.*

## Strategies

- Recent systemwide communications reaffirming our commitment to support all staff, students and families
- Storytelling videos, board recognitions and billboards highlighting our rich diversity and staff efforts
- *Living Our Promise* pin recognition program
- Leadership Forum professional development focused on building a strong culture



# Culture of Belonging

## **“My workplace has an explicit commitment to equity.”**

- 78% of district-based staff affirmed this statement (+ 2% from fall)
- 76% of school-based staff affirmed this statement

## **“I can bring my ‘whole self’ to work.”**

- 66% of district-based staff affirmed this statement (+4% from fall)
- 63% of school-based staff affirmed this statement

## **Questions About Belonging at Work**

- 67% of district-based staff responded favorably (+5% from fall)
- 60% of school-based staff responded favorably

**The Big Four**

# Areas of Focus



**Inclusionary  
Practices**



**MTSS**



**Secondary  
Redesign**



**Literacy &  
Language  
Development**



# Literacy & Language Development

## Overview

Strengthening reading and writing skills across grade levels to ensure all students achieve literacy success.

## Strategies

- Districtwide focus on literacy development
- All teachers serve as reading teachers
- Intentional literacy instruction across content areas
- iReady assessment now implemented at the high school level
- Quarterly literacy and language retreats to monitor progress



# Literacy & Language Development

## DISTRICTWIDE

### 4th and 5th Grades

### Show Strongest Growth

- **4th Grade:** 100% median progress toward typical growth
- **5th Grade:** 95% median progress toward typical growth

*These students were impacted by early pandemic disruptions in Kindergarten and 1st Grade.*

Median progress shows how close students are to expected yearly growth:

- 100% = on track
- More than 100% = ahead
- Less than 100% = behind

*Note: Final numbers will shift as testing ends.*



# Literacy & Language Development

## DISTRICTWIDE



**41% at grade  
level**



**Fewer 2+  
years behind**



**15% still  
testing**  
More results coming

# Literacy & Language Development

## Growth Toward Typical Targets

- Kindergarten: Median progress 95%
- Grade 1: Median progress 88%
- Grades 2–5: Median progress >100%

Most students in upper grades are meeting or exceeding growth goals and earlier grades are close, with room to grow!

## Performance Levels

**68%** of students are **performing at early/on grade level**  
(up 5% from Spring 2024)

## Stretch Growth

- **27%** of students met **stretch growth** targets



# Literacy & Language Development

## Growth Toward Typical Targets

- 51% of students met typical growth targets
- Kinder, 4th, and 5th grades exceeded 100% median progress

## Performance Levels

**48%** of students are performing at **early/on grade level**  
(up 6% from Spring 2024)

## Stretch Growth

- **26%** of students met **stretch growth** targets



**Beverly Park**



# Literacy & Language Development

## Growth Toward Typical Targets

- 7th Grade: **127%** median progress
- 8th Grade: **131%** median progress

## Typical Growth Targets

Over 50% of students met or exceeded typical growth targets

## Performance Levels

- 30% of students are performing at early/on grade level (up 4% from Spring 2024)



# State Budget Brings Small Gains, Big Gaps Remain

While the new state budget includes some increased investments in areas like special education and operational costs, we ***continue to face substantial funding gaps from the state*** that impact our ability to fully support all students.



# Special Education

- Highline faces a \$14 million shortfall in special education funding, with only \$2.5 million added in the new state budget.
- A new state rule blocks the use of local levies to fill the gap.
- Basic education funds must now cover special education—impacting other critical needs.





# Materials, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC)

- Highline received \$1 million in additional MSOC funding—still below inflation.
- Rising costs outpace funding: insurance and utilities increased significantly.
- Operational pressures continue despite modest state investments.



# Transportation

- No additional funding
- Statewide underfunding continues, despite strong advocacy.



# Next Steps

We will continue to advocate the state to fully fund public education, particularly special education, MSOC and transportation so we can further invest in our goals and priorities.

