

PRESS RELEASE

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Bellevue Schools Foundation | June 12, 2023 | Media Contact: Michael C. Smith, info@bsfdn.org

First Fed Foundation Donates \$25,000 to Bellevue Schools Foundation's Early Learning Initiative

The program provides tuition assistance to 25-35 low income and/or homeless students annually

BELLEVUE, Wash. – The <u>Bellevue Schools Foundation</u> announced it received a \$25,000 donation from the <u>First Fed Foundation</u> to support tuition assistance for 25-35 low income and/or homeless students to attend preschool. The program enables families to afford a full school day or an extended work day of instruction and child care services.

According to Megan James, Early Learning Curriculum Coordinator, "This grant for full day preschool is a vital lifeline to families who otherwise would not be able to access both the important learning for their children and everything they need to have a successful home environment."

One parent noted that without the support, "My kids would have been behind and for that we thank you for helping our child attend." Another said, "The school provides me with a lot of resources and information in various aspects of life, work, and so on. They work especially well for me." In fact, 90% of families reported that access to affordable early learning improved their family self-sufficiency.

BSF Development Director, Michael Smith, said, "We're grateful for this new partnership with First Fed Foundation as they expand into the Bellevue community. Their proactive commitment to community support led to some very productive conversations about where our missions align. And that happens to be in support of low income and homeless families. These students will get a lifetime of benefit from preschool."

For more information or to donate to this and other programs of the Bellevue Schools Foundation, visit www.bsfdn.org.

ABOUT THE BELLEVUE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION: Established in 1979, Bellevue Schools Foundation (BSF) is the 1st foundation dedicated to supporting public K-12 initiatives in Washington State. Its mission is to promote and fund the best possible learning opportunities for all students in Bellevue's public schools. This year, the Foundation is supporting \$800,000 of programming in the Bellevue School District.

ABOUT THE FIRST FED FOUNDATION: Committed to creating broad impact that benefits low- to moderate-income, disadvantaged and/or marginalized individuals and families, we fund efforts that provide a range of community support, address homelessness and the availability of affordable housing, and contribute to both community and economic development.