



## PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

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# CHANGES TO SCHOOL IMPACT FEE RATES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 9, 2021

Since 1992, the City of Bellingham and the Bellingham School District have collected school impact fees with the construction of new housing. The impact fees are intended to require new development to pay a proportionate share of the cost of new school facilities needed to serve our growing population.

The School District is responsible for setting the school impact fee rate and for using the fees to construct growth related school improvement projects.

The Bellingham City Council, at the request of the Bellingham School District, recently approved the District's new 2021-2026 Capital Facilities Plan and changes to the school impact fee rates applied to new residential development.

**All building permit applications for new single and multi-family dwelling units declared complete on or after November 9, 2021 will be subject to the following new school impact fee rates:**

- 1) \$4,133.00 per each new single family unit. For purposes of this program, the School District classifies detached and attached single family dwelling units and each duplex unit as single family.
- 2) \$1,793.00 per each new multi-family unit. This includes buildings with three or more dwelling units.

The fees must be paid prior to the issuance of a building permit.

If you believe school impact fees have been incorrectly applied to your development proposal, the fee adjustment and appeal process is explained in [BMC Section 19.08.080](#). Requests to adjust or waive school impact fees must be filed within 21 days of acceptance by the City of your building permit application.

## Appeals

The Director's final impact fee determination can be appealed to the Hearings Examiner. The appeal must be filed on forms provided by the Planning Department within 10 days of the Planning Director's written decision. The Hearings Examiner will schedule a public hearing to review the appeal. The fee for an appeal hearing is \$550.

If you have questions about school impact fees or the adjustment/appeal process, go to the Permit Center, 1st Floor, City Hall, 210 Lottie Street or call 360-778-8300.