

community partners. This is the only program of its kind north of Everett, and any pregnant or parenting student in Whatcom County up to the age of 21 is eligible to receive GRADS support.

Ms. Wilhelm facilitated a discussion and student comments are below each question asked.

How has GRADS supported you? Or not?

- The most important impact has been the connection and friendships with other students experiencing similar circumstances, as well as having additional trusted adults to go to for guidance.
- I was worried about being judged by others. Being a part of GRADS has eased those worries and increased my self-confidence. It is a safe environment.
- It feels like another home.
- The support from other teen parents has been very helpful.
- I have received help with housing as well as parenting support.

In looking at The Bellingham Promise, what stands out for you as important?

- I like that student engagement involves the whole family.
- Diversity and inclusion are important, so students are not excluded due to their differences.
- Every kid is important no matter what they are going through.

How did or is GRADS supporting your parenting goals?

- Having trusted adults provide childcare makes it possible for teen parents to graduate.
- The childcare program helps prepare our children for Promise K.
- I don't have to worry about my child while I'm attending classes.
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