



**News release**  
**April 22, 2020**

## **Sequoia High School and Hawthorne Elementary receive recognition**

*State Board of Education releases the 2018-19 Washington School Recognition Program list*



The State Board of Education, the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee (EOGOAC) and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) have identified 391 schools state-wide to receive recognition based on state-level and local information under three routes this year: achievement, closing gaps and growth. The state has re-imagined the recognition system to highlight schools that have received support and are thriving, and highlight positive systems changes happening all over the state.

Sequoia High School is being recognized for closing gaps for all students for improving the graduation rate. Kelly Shepherd, principal, says the recognition “ belongs with our amazing kids who continue to persevere and rise to the challenges we put in front of them; an astounding and talented staff team including paras, custodial, food services, secretaries, teachers and counselors who support students to engage to their potential and knock down barriers to their success; and family, community partnerships and support to help us meet the needs of the whole student.”

Hawthorne Elementary School is being recognized for growth for students identifying with two or more races. For a school to be identified under the Growth route for a student group, at least one student group at the school must have posted outcomes in the top 10 percent of schools on at least 60 percent of the measures for which the school was eligible. Principal Paige Nguyen, says, “Hawthorne Elementary is a very unique school because of its students, families and staff. Its rich diversity and backgrounds bring us together to overcome all obstacles and unites us towards our common goals to ensure success for each student. This recognition acknowledges their hard work and achievement. We are honored to receive this recognition on behalf of the Hawthorne Learning Community.”

Schools will be celebrated during the Washington State School Recognition Week, April 27 – May 1, 2020. Data supporting the reason each school was selected for recognition is featured on [SBE's website](#) and will be shared [via social media](#) with the hashtag #WASchoolsWeek.

“Now more than ever, schools are the heart of our community,” said Superintendent Ian Saltzman. “I am so proud of the recognition of our educators at Sequoia High School and Hawthorne Elementary for their commitment to continually improve outcomes for their students.”

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**For more information:**

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