



News release
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Kids in Transition (KIT) Coordinator receives national recognition

Amy Perusse honored in Education Week's 2021 Leaders to Learn From



*Amy Perusse, KIT Program Coordinator.
Photo Credit: Jenny Riffle for Education Week*

KIT Coordinator Amy Perusse is one of 11 school district leaders nationally to be honored as part of Education Week's [Leaders to Learn From](#) special report. The annual publication spotlights innovative school district leaders across the country who are putting bold ideas to work in the nation's school districts.

The 11 honorees were chosen from nearly 300 nominees submitted by readers, journalists, school administrator groups, and experts in the K-12 field. As Everett Public School's Kids in Transition Coordinator, Perusse leads the effort to help students experiencing homelessness. As announced on the Education Week

website, edweek.org, "cutting-edge district leaders" were selected for the "foundations they laid and a wellspring of strong relationships to meet their students' and staffs' needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges of the school year."

On average, the district provides support for 1,100 homeless students each year. With the move to remote and hybrid learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, those students have been more difficult to identify and many have fallen off the radar across the country, but not in Everett Public Schools.

The district began this remote school year with more identified homeless students than in the previous year due in part to the aggressive outreach programs initiated by Perusse. These innovative and collaborative programs make it possible to locate students and families who may not otherwise know what supports are available to them. Perusse credits her personal experience with housing instability for fueling her passion to provide support for homeless children.

"It is an honor to be selected as one of the Ed Week Leaders to Learn From. Really the KIT (Kids in Transition) program support here in Everett only happens through the district-wide and county-wide regional team approach; and through the support of the other leaders in our district, who strive to create an inclusive strategy to support all students," said Perusse. She added, "This recognition is only one important piece of the overall excellence that Everett is recognized for, I am honored to be a part of team Everett!"

The 2021 leaders will be invited to share their successful strategies during a three-day virtual conference, May 10-12, 2021, where Education Week will bring together district leaders from across the country. Attendees will learn about transformation in K-12 and will leave with proven practices to drive change in their schools and districts.

The Everett Public Schools Kids in Transition program implements the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act of 1987*, which provides support for homeless children and youth to continue their education without interruption or barriers.

Education Week is an independent provider of news, information, and analysis in K-12 education. To learn about the honorees visit <http://leaders.edweek.org/>.

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