



News release
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Everett Public Schools board is a 2023 Board of Distinction

District school board recognized for governing excellence



*Front row: Andrew Nicholls, Caroline Mason
Back row: Pam LeSesne, Traci Mitchell, Jen Hirman*

[Everett, WA] — The Everett School Board has been selected as a 2023 WSSDA Board of Distinction for presenting exemplary evidence of ongoing professional development, addressing opportunity gaps and practicing governance that reflects the Washington School Board Standards during the 2022-23 school year. There are 34 boards awarded this honor throughout the state of Washington.

These 34 school districts, representing a broad spectrum of size, ranging from a couple of hundred students to more than 30,000, all share a common commitment to ensuring student success. They have approached this goal through various strategies,

including extensive strategic planning, data-driven analysis to understand student performance and creating an environment conducive to the success of both students and staff.

“Each selected school board has shown a clear focus on assessing their students’ outcomes and exploring ways to enhance their leadership,” said WSSDA Director of Leadership Development Tricia Lubach. “As schools return to fully in-person instruction after a challenging couple of years, it is evident that these school boards have refocused their attention on closing opportunity gaps for students within their districts and committing to consistent communication with their communities.”

The Boards of Distinction program, initiated in 2009, aligns with the research-based Washington School Board Standards published in the same year. These standards guide school boards to focus on areas where they can make the most significant difference in supporting students, aligning with their community’s aspirations for its children and effectively governing the school district. School boards seeking this honor must illustrate their implementation of a specific Washington school board standard and provide compelling evidence demonstrating a positive impact on closing opportunity gaps for their students.

A panel of reviewers, comprising of members from the Washington State Board of Education and various Educational Service Districts across the state, meticulously evaluated the applications and selected those that exceeded the established criteria.

Applications are reviewed by a panel of judges, including former and current educational service district superintendents, State Board of Education board members, former school directors and other education leaders in Washington state. The Boards of Distinction application asks school directors to illustrate and show a clear link between their leadership in applying the Washington School Board Standards and how their board’s actions and decisions exemplified visionary leadership and helped their school district close opportunity gaps and increase overall student

success. Only 30 school boards out of 307 across the state received a 2022 Board of Distinction honor.

Dr. Ian Saltzman, superintendent of Everett Public Schools, recognizes the great leadership of his board, "I am pleased the Everett Board of Directors is being honored for the work they do. Their focus on governance provides the framework for each of our students to learn to high standards. They govern with the student in mind and their recognition is a strong example of how teamwork can improve the outcomes for the students and families we serve."

This is the boards seventh Board of Distinction award in the last eight years. The Boards of Distinction from across the state will be honored at the Washington State School Directors Association's (WSSDA's) 2023 Annual Conference in Bellevue during the awards ceremony on Thursday, November 16.

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For more information:

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