

News release



Oct. 18, 2013

For more information:

Mary Waggoner, Director of Communications, 425-385-4040

Dr. Joyce Stewart, Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, 425-385-4021

North Middle School and Silver Lake Elementary earn state's top honors

Students have shown outstanding math and reading improvement for five consecutive years

When schools show consistent improvement trends over a long period, that student achievement trend catches the attention of groups looking for exceptional educational practices. It also earns those schools the title [School of Distinction](#).

This year marks the fifth year in a row that students in [North Middle School](#) and [Silver Lake Elementary](#) have consistently scored higher on reading and math scores than they did the year before.

"Improving scores one or two years in a row is an accomplishment," notes Superintendent Gary Cohn. "Holding and achieving that continuous improvement standard for five years is very difficult. Such a sustained improvement track record means the students, their families, the staff and the school system are in sync with quality instruction, high expectations and high support."

The achievements of North and Silver Lake place them in the top five percent of all schools in the state of Washington based upon math and reading improvements. Only 99 state schools earned the title *School of Distinction*; 55 are elementary schools; 24 are middle schools, and 23 are high schools.



District schools have a long history of winning awards. In 2010, Silver Lake Elementary was a *School of Distinction*. Here, Principal Mary O'Brien, who was at Silver Lake in 2010, is surrounded by staff and district officials for the 2010 award ceremony. O'Brien is now principal at North Middle School.

---more---

The [Center for Educational Effectiveness](#) (CEE) is the organization that tracks state school achievement trends and is among those groups that give the *School of Distinction* awards. CEE President Greg Lobdell described the vast difference among the state's award-winning schools, "These schools are from all regions of the state, all sizes of towns, and with two percent to 100 percent poverty. Enrollment in these award-winning schools of English Language Learners is as high as 49 percent. These schools demonstrate that significant improvement is occurring all across our state's diverse public schools."

North and Silver Lake have similar demographics. Six out of ten students at North qualify for free or reduced lunch; at Silver Lake the number is five out of ten. "Students living in poverty can have more life challenges that interfere with school and learning," explains Dr. Joyce Stewart, the district's associate superintendent of teaching and learning. "North and Silver Lake staff have developed ways to circumvent the challenges of poverty and support students and families in ways that makes learning and school success possible."

While this is the first such award for North, Silver Lake and other schools in the district have earned these and other state awards since 2005 when the recognition began. Although the names of the awards have changed, the emphasis and recognition of sustained improvement has remained a common thread over the seven years of the award program.

Everett Public Schools award-winning schools 2005-2013 *(Over time, the names of some awards have changed. Information about each award is available on website of [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction](#).)*

Year	Award	School
2005	Title I Improvement Award	Hawthorne Elementary
2005	Title I Improvement Award	Lowell Elementary
2005	Title I Improvement Award	Madison Elementary
2006	Title I Improvement Award	Emerson Elementary
2007	Title I Improvement Award	Emerson Elementary
2007	Title I Improvement Award	Garfield Elementary
2007	Title I Improvement Award	Jackson Elementary
2007	Title I Improvement Award	Lowell Elementary
2007	Title I Improvement Award	Madison Elementary
2007	Title I Improvement Award	Silver Lake Elementary
2007	Title I Improvement Award	Whittier Elementary
2008	Title I Improvement Award	Emerson Elementary
2008	School of Distinction	Evergreen Middle
2008	School of Distinction	Gateway Middle
2008	School of Distinction	Heatherwood Middle
2008	Title I Improvement Award	Jackson Elementary
2008	Title I Improvement Award	Whittier Elementary

---more---



Staff of award-winning schools are honored at school board meetings. Above, Gateway Middle School in 2009. Below, Woodside Elementary School in 2010.



Year	Award	School
2009	Washington Achievement Award	Cedar Wood Elementary
2009	Great School	Gateway Middle
2009	Washington Achievement Award	Gateway Middle
2009	Title I Improvement Award	Madison Elementary
2009	Washington Achievement Award	Mill Creek Elementary
2009	Washington Achievement Award	Silver Firs Elementary
2009	Title I Improvement Award	Silver Lake Elementary
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Cedar Wood Elementary
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Evergreen Middle
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Garfield Elementary
2010	School of Distinction	Gateway Middle
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Gateway Middle
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Mill Creek Elementary
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Silver Firs Elementary
2010	School of Distinction	Silver Lake Elementary
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Silver Lake Elementary
2010	Washington Achievement Award	Woodside Elementary
2011	School of Distinction	Cedar Wood Elementary
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Cedar Wood Elementary
2011	School of Distinction	Eisenhower Middle
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Eisenhower Middle
2011	College Board Advanced Placement Honor Roll	Everett Public Schools
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Evergreen Middle
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Forest View Elementary
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Garfield Elementary
2011	School of Distinction	Gateway Middle
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Gateway Middle
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Heatherwood Middle
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Henry M. Jackson High
2011	Title I Improvement Award	Jackson Elementary
2011	Title I Improvement Award	Madison Elementary
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Mill Creek Elementary
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Port Gardner
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Silver Firs Elementary
2011	School of Distinction	Silver Lake Elementary
2011	Title I Academic Achievement Award	Silver Lake Elementary
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Silver Lake Elementary
2011	Washington Achievement Award	Woodside Elementary

---more---



This was Cedar Wood Elementary's award presentation with state dignitaries in 2010.



Silver Firs Elementary staff were honored in 2010 for their work and designation as a state school of achievement.



Eisenhower Middle School earned state awards in 2012, and staff members accepted the award at a school board meeting.



In 2011, the district earned an international Advanced Placement award for continually increasing the number of AP classes, students taking classes and AP earning high scores on AP tests.

Year	Award	School
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Cedar Wood Elementary
2012	School of Distinction	Eisenhower Middle
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Forest View Elementary
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Gateway Middle
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Heatherwood Middle
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Jefferson Elementary
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Mill Creek Elementary
2012	School of Distinction	Silver Lake Elementary
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Silver Lake Elementary
2012	Washington Achievement Award	Woodside Elementary
2013	School of Distinction	North Middle
2013	School of Distinction	Silver Lake Elementary
2013	Title I Continued Academic Progress Award	Silver Lake Elementary

---end---