

From: [Cohn, Gary](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: Everett's New Graduation Rates Published - and Increased!
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Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Dear Colleague:

Good morning! Together, we have done it again! OSPI announced yesterday that our 2014 graduation rates have once again increased – this time by five percent for students who walk across the stage in four years!

Last year I congratulated you for helping push up our **four-year** graduation rate to 84.4 percent. Today, I am honored to congratulate you again for a 2014, four-year graduation rate that rose to **89.3 percent**.

A year ago, we celebrated the **five-year** graduation rate rising to an impressive 88.5 percent. Today, we can celebrate that those who followed a five-year path to graduation last year did so at an even greater rate of **91.2 percent**.

How fitting it is to have this state announcement in the midst of our State of the School Review (SOSR) season. For those of us fortunate enough to participate in these SOSRs, the increased graduation rates are validation of the remarkable accomplishments we see at every level of education in our Everett Public Schools. Our collective efforts to achieve a goal of 100% graduation provides a laser sharp focus for each of those reviews – whether the review is conducted by an elementary school, a middle school, or a high school staff team.

Whether your part in encouraging a student's success is a core class, a specialty subject, providing transportation or food, keeping the building safe, a smile in the morning, a hand on the shoulder during the day, a thoughtful question, or simply "being there," *your support resulted in more students crossing the stage in 2014*. You made a life-long, profound difference to each of those students. A greater percentage of our students in 2014 earned high school diplomas than did the year before. A greater percentage of our students have a step up toward greater college and career success because our work focused on *each* student's graduation.

Graduation ceremonies are also called "Commencement" ceremonies – and for good reason. Graduation commences a new step. Once-upon-a-time, a high school diploma was sort of a skeleton key that opened a door to work and career. Today, more than ever, it represents a spring board to future. A high school diploma opens doors AND launches a student on a much longer trajectory of learning for today's graduates.

Thank you for and congratulations on our graduation rate increases, and the collective and individual commencement this means for so many more students.

Warm regards...

Gary



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