



Our students will shape and lead the future

News release

Dec. 21, 2015

Garfield Elementary earns state *School of Distinction* award

Students in only 92 Washington state schools did well enough over five consecutive years for their schools to earn this award



Schools showing consistent improvement trends over a long period catch the attention of groups looking for exceptional schools. That trend also earns those schools the title *School of Distinction*. Only 92 schools in the state met the criteria for the 2015 award – five years of students having continuously improved reading and math scores. One of those 92 schools is Garfield Elementary in Everett.

“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.”

Seven out of ten students at Garfield qualify for free or reduced lunch. Sixteen percent speak a language other than English. “Students living in poverty and coming to school without English language skills face special challenges that can interfere with learning unless a school has supports for them,” explains Dr. Joyce Stewart, the district’s associate superintendent of teaching and learning for the northern region. “The Garfield community works with the school and families to offset those challenges. The school is a shining example of ‘a whole village’ coming together with a growth mindset to meet the learning needs of each child.”

(more)

Superintendent Cohn notes that Garfield staff and “...staff at every other school in the district are deeply analyzing not just *what* is taught but *how* teachers are using their professional skills and artistry to engage students, spark their curiosity and ignite self-motivated learning.”

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Background

Other schools in the district have earned a *School of Distinction* award and other state awards since 2005. Although the names of the awards have changed, and the awards are given for various ways the schools have sustained learning, the emphasis and recognition of sustained improvement are the common threads.

(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



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



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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

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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
2013	National Title I Distinguished School	Madison Elementary
2014	School of Distinction	Silver Lake Elementary
2015	School of Distinction	Garfield Elementary

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Madison Elementary teachers celebrate with sparkling water at news of their 2013 *National Title I Distinguished School*.

