

### Everett Public Schools Board is a 2017 Board of Distinction

*Third time in four years district school board named among state's most effective*



*Partnerships are key to the district's focus on each child's learning. Here Caroline Mason, Traci Mitchell, Carol Andrews, Superintendent Gary Cohn, Ted Wenta and Pam LeSesne pause during a session hearing about The Boeing Company's needs for a well-educated, skilled workforce.*

Everett, WA – [In 2014](#) and again [in 2016](#), Everett Public Schools board of directors earned high honors from its peers – the designation as a *Board of Distinction*. Next month, at the annual Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) conference in Bellevue, Everett's school board will once again be among the state's *Boards of Distinction*.

This annual program honors school boards leading districts with high levels of student learning and those closing the achievement gap. The award goes to boards achieving these successes using research-based governance practices.

Everett's nomination highlighted the board's focus on *each* student's learning success and the year-by-year strategic steps taken to reach a 100 percent graduation rate and zero percent achievement gap.

Twenty-two other Washington school district school boards earned this year's *Board of Distinction* honor and will be recognized in Bellevue. Among those 22, three *Boards of Distinction* will be further honored during the conference as a *Board of the Year*. In 2014, Everett Public Schools board of directors was the [Board of the Year](#) for large school districts.

When learning about the award, board president Caroline Mason was quick to give credit to school staff, district support persons and the community who help make the board's vision a reality for the community's children.

"Because of this district's team, our students outperform the state on assessments in every subject and every grade. In many cases, they surpass the state scores by double digits. More and more students are taking more rigorous classes like Advanced Placement and College in

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the High School. More than nine out of 10 students (90.9 percent) graduate in four years, and an even larger percentage, 94.7 percent, graduate in five years. Our district has the highest graduation rate in the state for students who speak a language other than English as their native tongue.

“And, we do a good job as stewards of public funds. Recently Moody’s upgraded the district [bond rating to Aa1](#). We also undergo a comprehensive state audit every year and consistently earn [clean audit reports](#). For more than a quarter century (29 years!) we’ve earned a *Certificate of Excellence* from the state’s school business association for our *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report*.

Community partnerships are also critical to student learning. Our business partners, parent organizations, elected officials and voters help guide our decisions, evaluate our programs and progress and are key pieces in the network of supports and opportunities for each of our students.”

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**For more information:**

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## 2017 Audit Highlights

*“District staff are dedicated to producing high quality financial reports and showed great professionalism and knowledge.”*

*“... staff foster a strong culture of internal controls and administration closely monitors financial activity at decentralized locations such as schools.”*