

**From:** [Superintendent](#)  
**To:** [EPS.Maillist](#)  
**Subject:** Message from the superintendent  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2018 10:49:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Dear colleague:

High on the wall of our Community Resource Center's atrium is written the declaration, "Alone we can do so little; together, we can do so much." Helen Keller's wisdom expresses the philosophy of partnerships in our schools and across our district.

If you live within our district's boundaries, you found the latest issue of the district newsletter [Our Schools](#) in your mailbox in the last day or so. (The newsletter is also available [on line](#) for those of you who have not yet received it or who live outside this district.)

**The issue is full of the spirit of partnership!** Check out the front page story about our *robotics teams*, all of which are possible in part because of partnerships and volunteers who give their time and resources to the students and robotics team coaches to help the teams build and learn. Or read about *Music4Life*. This group is dedicated to ensuring students across the district have access to musical instruments and a musical way to express themselves and their creativity.

In this January 2018 issue, we share news of our continuously improving graduation rates. This is one of the district's most visible and powerful partnership stories as it involves and depends upon every staff member in every school. This partnership work goes all the way back to 2002 when the school board then declared a 50 percent graduation rate, "not acceptable." Today, we are working within school teams and with partners in our community, including the [Everett Public Schools Foundation](#), so more of our communities' students are earning high school diplomas every year. That way students have a jump start on future careers or education they choose to pursue because a diploma helps makes such choices possible.

Dozens of community leaders, businesses, representatives of higher education and civic leaders are partners in the planning and growing momentum behind our high school [Career Pathways plans](#) – funding for which is included in the 2018 [Capital Bond](#) on the ballot Feb. 13. Read what four of our partner business leaders have to say about career pathways in the centerfold of *Our Schools*. You can also [read what they say online](#) or watch videos online. In December, Cascade High School got a head start on that career pathway program by earning a [\\$22,500 grant](#) from the Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing Programs Core Plus Grant through the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Boeing just announced a [\\$90,000 partnership](#) with us to help boost math skills of students entering kindergarten. In addition to providing financial resources, [Boeing engineers](#) will volunteer in dozens of our classrooms next month as part of [National](#)

[Engineers Week](#) to demystify engineering and inspire STEM careers.

Our kindergarten teachers and regional preschool teachers are long-time partners as part of our effort to ensure every five-year-old entering kindergarten is *kindergarten ready*. Professional learning sessions mixing the [magic of children's fairy tales](#) and the basics of STEM started in December. These collaborative sessions are open not only to our district teachers and to preschool staff in our district – regional educators are welcome as well. Why? Because quality education and kindergarten readiness are good for all children.

We know students in stable homes have a better chance of doing well in school. That's why we applied for and won a [\\$60,000 grant](#) enabling us to partner with [Cocoon House](#) to bring stability and consistent education to 45 district students who are homeless.

These are just some of our most recent partnership stories. If you were to scan the district's [cache of news releases online](#), you'd find years of examples. And [BoardDocs](#) archives hundreds of records of people and organizations who have stepped up with time and/or resources to help us do this work.

Together we are accomplishing so much for our students! And I thank you for your part in the momentum, and for adding to the magnetic energy that draws others into this educational community so we can do even more.



**Gary Cohn**  
Superintendent

[gcohn@everettsd.org](mailto:gcohn@everettsd.org)

425-385-4009 | 425-385-4012 Fax