

**From:** [Cohn, Gary](#)  
**To:** [EPS.Maillist](#)  
**Subject:** Congratulations: We are United Way Best in Class!!!  
**Date:** Monday, October 05, 2015 10:15:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

Dear Colleague:

We've enjoyed a wonderful start to our school year! Last year's Smarter Balanced results outpaced the state in every subject and grade. Our graduation rates reached historic heights. Students in Advanced Placement and other challenging courses performed remarkably.

And here's another piece of good news: Because of your exceptional generosity, United Way has designated Everett Public Schools a [Best in Class](#) organization! This means we set an example for others like us in support for our students and families whose circumstances we can help improve.

This award comes at a time when the percentage of our students facing the effects of poverty has grown to nearly 41%; four out of ten students live below the federal poverty level, with some north region schools reaching as high as nine of ten. This award comes at a time when our homeless student population reached 987 students last year, and last month's homeless student enrollment was 126 higher than September of last year. This award comes at a time when Everett's mayor has convened a regional roundtable to address homelessness, mental illness, addiction, and street crime; issues that create barriers for our kids and hurt their chances of success. And it comes at a time when our local United Way has launched a major effort to coalesce people and organizations across the county around a collective effort to attack poverty at its roots.

My wife, Sue, and I are committed supporters of organizations like United Way and our Everett Public Schools Foundation *because students and families in Everett Public Schools [directly and indirectly benefit](#) from support provided by United Way and our foundation*. We know from personal experience that community generosity helps change the lives of so many young men and women in our schools. You can read [stories](#) about families who benefit from our support – and see how United Way makes the most of your donations to help families in our community.

Because so many of the kids in our community need our personal support, ***I urge you to attend the United Way and Everett Public Schools Foundation presentations at your school or office location, and return your United Way pledge form this year.*** No matter what you contribute to supporting our families locally, whether you donate or you volunteer your time, it *will* make a difference in their lives.

Thank you for all that you give our community's families in your work each day, and the ways you help brighten the world for our students.

Warm wishes,

Gary

p.s., My most recent [superintendent's message](#) on our district web site includes even more reasons for us to be so proud of the great results we've created together in our Everett Public Schools.



**Dr. Gary Cohn**  
**Superintendent**  
[gcohn@everettsd.org](mailto:gcohn@everettsd.org)  
425-385-4009 | 425-385-4002 Fax