From: Cohn, Gary
To: EPS.MailList
Subject: A Brief Note about our Special Education Program
Date: Monday, January 26, 2015 11:06:12 AM
Attachments: image003.png

Good morning, colleagues.

This morning I'm taking a moment to thank our special education staff for their dedication and amazing work with our students. The special education staff work has received very high ratings from OSPI reviews and garnered clean audit reports over many years. Our special education staff has also done exceptionally well in acquiring state Safety Net funding to support our high needs students. What I am most proud of, however, is the wonderful work you do with individual students every day.

In fall of 2010 a WASA Management Review devoted significant effort to studying district operations, including our special education program. While staff responded positively to the recommendations from the WASA report, my conversations with special education staff over the last several months indicate that it is again time to examine our organizational structure, policies and procedures, communication protocols, and best practices.

I have asked Associate Superintendent Tony Byrd to lead the review and take responsibility for updating our special education program. He will be seeking your input and cooperation, along with the input of our newly formed Special Education Advisory Council and experts in the field. We will be asking whether our program philosophy, organizational structure, procedures, and communication methods are based on best practices, designed to best serve our special needs students, and aligned with other district initiatives.

Special education staff will be invited to a district-wide meeting in the next few weeks to learn more details about this review and what you can do to assist in the effort.

Thank you for the great work you do every day, and welcome to the second half of our school year together! Warmest regards.

EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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