



News Release

Washington State School Directors' Association
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Three boards honored for repeat distinction

South Kitsap and Sunnyside named as school Boards of the Year

The South Kitsap and Sunnyside School Boards have been named the 2013 school *Boards of the Year*.

The awards were presented Saturday during the Annual Conference of the Washington State School Directors' Association. The two boards were chosen from a field of 20 boards nominated from across Washington state.

“There is no higher formal honor in our state for excellence as a school board,” said Debbie Long, outgoing president of the WSSDA Board of Directors. “They come from very different areas of the state, showing how excellence knows no geographic or economic boundaries.”

South Kitsap was also one of three boards who received awards for five straight years of recognition as a board of distinction. This also included the boards for Issaquah and Vancouver.

Eleven other boards were earlier named Boards of Distinction. They come from districts in Anacortes, Auburn, Ferndale, Franklin Pierce, Kent, Lake Stevens, Monroe, Port Angeles, Pullman, Tumwater, and University Place.

The annual Boards of Distinction and Boards of the Year program honors school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards. The standards, developed and adopted by WSSDA in 2009, promote research-based governance practices that lead to high levels of student and district achievement.

Award applicants submit an essay and supporting evidence to demonstrate how they are putting the standards into practice. This year, applicants addressed the following:

- Adopting policies based on well-researched practices that emphasize a belief that all students can achieve at high levels.
- Ensuring non-negotiable goals for student achievement are established and aligned to the district's plan.

- Ensuring management of the organization, operations, and resources for an efficient and effective learning environment.
- Committing to continuous improvement in student achievement at each school and throughout the district.
- Soliciting input from staff and a wide spectrum of the community so that a diverse range of interests and perspectives on issues is considered.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel.

School directors for each of the most recently honored boards are:

Issaquah: Brian Deagle, Marnie Maraldo, Alison Meryweather, Anne Moore and Suzanne Weaver

South Kitsap: Keith Garton, Chris Lemke, Patty Henderson, Kathryn Simpson and Greg Wall

Sunnyside: Rocky Simmons, Michelle Perry, Dylan Gardner, Lorenzo Garza Jr. and Sandra Linde

Vancouver: Dale Rice, Edri Geiger, Kathy Gillespie, Mari Greves, Mark Stoker

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About WSSDA — Founded in 1922, the Washington State School Directors' Association is comprised of all 1,477 school board members from Washington's 295 school districts. The districts they lead serve more than one million students, have a combined annual budget of nearly \$10 billion, and employ more than 160,000 people. WSSDA's core mission is focused on ensuring that school board members have the knowledge, tools and services they need to effectively govern their districts and improve student learning.