



News Release

Washington State School Directors' Association

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For Immediate Release.

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Alan Burke Named as WSSDA's Next Executive Director

Long-time education leader Alan Burke has been named the new executive director of the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA).

Burke, currently the deputy superintendent at the state's Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), will begin his new job August 1. The association's 16-member board voted unanimously Friday morning to offer Burke the position. He immediately accepted. Burke will be the association's seventh executive director in its 60-year history as a state agency.

"We were thrilled that Alan was interested in serving as WSSDA's Executive Director," said WSSDA President Mari Taylor. "He has a spectacular combination of public school experience and savvy understanding of how things get done, both here and nationally."

At OSPI, Burke oversees several divisions and statewide efforts. Before coming to OSPI in February 2009, Burke held a number of positions over a 35-year career in public schools. These included jobs as middle school teacher and principal, assistant superintendent, and, from 1998 through 2009, superintendent of the Yelm School District. Burke earned his EdD from the University of Washington in 1990.

"I've worked alongside school board members throughout my career and appreciate how hard they work to help kids succeed," Burke said. "That makes it all that much more exciting to join WSSDA as executive director."

Part of Burke's job at OSPI was to serve as liaison with other education organizations, including those representing school directors and administrators.

"Our board has had the good fortune of getting to know Alan," Taylor said. "As OSPI's liaison with WSSDA, we've had the benefit of his advice on a regular basis. He has one of the sharpest minds I know of when it comes to K-12 education."

As deputy superintendent at OSPI, Burke supervised statewide programs in teaching and learning, assessment, career and college readiness, school improvement and federal accountability among others.

"Public education is going through tremendous changes in Washington and across the country", Taylor said. "Alan's strong grasp of both the issues and mechanics of how schools work will better equip school directors in our primary mission – supporting student learning. "

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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 \$6 billion, and employ nearly 100,000 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.