

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the mission of Washington's public school system is to ensure that all students achieve at high levels and possess the knowledge and skills to be responsible residents of a democratic society and enjoy productive and satisfying lives; and

WHEREAS, Washington's 295 locally elected school boards and 9 elected educational service district boards are the core of the public education governance system in our state; and

WHEREAS, the districts and regions they lead serve more than 1.1 million students, have a combined annual budget of over \$16 billion, and employ approximately 120,000 people; and

WHEREAS, school directors play a crucial role in promoting student learning and achievement by creating a vision, establishing policies and budgets and setting clear standards of accountability for all involved; and

WHEREAS, school directors are directly accountable to the residents of their districts and regions, serving as a vital link between members of the community and their schools; and

WHEREAS, school directors and educational service districts provide a passionate voice of advocacy for public schools and the welfare of school children; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize school directors as outstanding public servants and champions of public education;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 2026 as

School Board Recognition Month

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 31st day of December, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson

