



Washington left behind in 'Race' competition

State not among the 19 finalists for Race to the Top Round 2

Washington state's effort to compete for millions of dollars in federal "Race to the Top" education grants has come up short.

Last month, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced that 18 states and the District of Columbia are finalists to compete for a share of \$3.4 billion in RTTT stimulus funds. Washington state was not among them.

Washington waged a concerted campaign to qualify for the Race to the Top competition, including passage of several education system changes in the last legislative session and an all-out effort to persuade school districts around the state to sign on to the state's RTTT application.

Race to the Top is the Obama administration's signature education reform program. It offers federal stimulus funds as an incentive for states to adopt initiatives such as common core academic standards, performance-based teacher and principal evaluations, and turnaround strategies for low-performing schools. To date, two states have been selected to receive RTTT funds.

Washington state, hoping to secure about \$250 million, was among 35 applicants for Round 2 of the RTTT competition. The state will not know how it scored on its unsuccessful application until September.

"We're disappointed," said WSSDA President Kevin Laverty (Mukilteo). "School directors looked at this application closely and fully debated it in their communities. With the passage of SB 6696 in the last session, we are fully committed to further reforms in public education that make



U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan announced the RTTT Round 2 finalists July 27. (U.S. Dept. of Education file photo).

the best use of the public's dollar and help set the stage for improved student achievement and the ability to succeed in future academic and workplace pursuits."

In a joint statement, Gov. Chris Gregoire and Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn emphasized that the outcome of Race to the Top "does not mean the end of meaningful education reform in Washington."

"When we put together our application, we were committed, win or lose, to making sure we would carry out education reform our way, the Washington way. Race to the Top enabled us to spend time creating a road map to our education reform efforts through a draft plan that reflected the work of many diverse groups as well as the good work started by our most recent education laws. We will finalize the plan this fall and use it to prioritize and allocate resources as we move ahead with our state education reform efforts."

A greeting from the Executive Director

Dr. Jonelle Adams



I am delighted to join WSSDA as your new executive director. In the coming weeks and months I look forward to meeting you and learning more about what's happening in your districts.

The bottom line for school directors and WSSDA is student learning. As an association, our core mission is to ensure you have the tools, services and support you need to be effective leaders for student success. WSSDA must also serve as a statewide leader and advocate for public education.

Our challenge is to grow WSSDA's credibility and reputation as the "go-to" organization for expertise and advocacy on K-12 issues. Now, more than ever, WSSDA needs to be at the table as critical decisions are made about the ways our schools are governed, funded and administered.

Through our membership, WSSDA has tremendous strengths. Locally elected school directors serve as the voice for their communities and for their students. Their unique perspective and expertise is vital to the discussions and debate about the future of our public education system.

My goal is to make sure WSSDA and school directors are active participants in these discussions no matter where and when they are taking place. We simply must be as aggressive as possible in making our voice heard as we work to promote a quality education for all students.

I know I will be seeing many of you at the Legislative Assembly, Regional Meetings and other events. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to give me a call or send an email if you have questions, comments or concerns. I can be reached at J.Adams@wssda.org or 360.252.3001.

Thanks so much for your school board service. It is deeply appreciated.



Note: To listen to a podcast interview with Dr. Jonelle Adams, visit wssda.libsyn.com.

Deadline nears for position proposals

School boards are invited to submit ideas for WSSDA's permanent positions. Defining WSSDA's beliefs, positions and values as viewed by its members, these official positions are advisory to school boards as well as to other organizations and stakeholders.

School directors have been mailed a WSSDA Resolution Proposal Form, which must be returned no later than Aug. 16. Forms and instructions are also posted online at wssda.org under "What's New."

The Changing Face of School Finance workshop, August 12

With implementation of the Prototypical School Model in the next biennial budget, the new language and structure of school finance is expected to make funding less mysterious, school board choices more transparent and outcomes more accountable to the public.

The Changing Face of School Finance workshop takes place Aug. 12, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the John A. Cherberg Building, Meeting Room 2, on the Capitol Campus in Olympia. Together with experts from OSPI, WSSDA trainers will provide an information-packed afternoon outlining the current school funding process, explaining the new accountability structure, informing you about expected changes to education funding through 2018, and helping you frame your own community discussions. Register online at wssda.org/workshops.

For those unable to attend, a video of the workshop will be available at tvw.org. Questions? Contact Connie Lauderdale (360.252.3009 or C.Lauderdale@wssda.org).

Construction grants total \$236 million

More than \$236 million in capital construction money is being released to Washington school districts, according to an Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction press release. Added to nearly \$453 million in capital bonds approved by voters in communities, the funds will inject more than \$689 million into the state's economy. Thirty districts are ready to begin or continue work on 42 new school buildings and building modernization projects. For details and a list of districts see www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2010/CapitalConstruction.aspx.

WSSDA Online Learning

Pour a cup of coffee and log in to your learning community

Join WSSDA for a new kind of board training—WSSDA Online Learning—with a course encompassing four weeks in September and early October:

Putting Your Data to Work for Student Success

Sept. 8 - Oct. 6

Five webinars: Wednesdays, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

(Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, and Oct. 6)

Instructor: Rich Parker

Cost: \$80

School directors from around the state will participate in five noon-hour webinars, with optional opportunities to engage with class members between sessions. A digest of newly posted information and conversation starters will be e-mailed routinely.

Course content

This online learning community of school directors will gain the knowledge and skills needed to understand the use of data to measure student achievement. Participants will explore state and national initiatives, standards, and current research, and will examine and evaluate various data reporting tools and programs, student assessment systems, and current best practices in school districts. Explore policy questions such as:

- Who are the stakeholders to be considered in a conversation around data?

- What essential and meaningful data should be identified for measuring student achievement?
- Is the data aligned to shed light on the district's success in achieving its goals?
- How are we using data to inform decision-making at the board, district, school and classroom levels?
- How are we incorporating data analysis, review and discussion in our public meetings?

The course content will be delivered online with facilitated discussion topics for in-depth dialogue and activities with your course community. The user-friendly website includes weekly discussion topics and a resource center rich with articles, research papers, videos, links, podcasts and the archived webinars.

At the conclusion of this course, the participants will understand what types of data their district requires for effective decision-making and how data-driven decisions are aligned with the district's strategic goals. Participants will design and create a customized data dashboard for their own school districts.

Registrants will need a PC or Mac computer with high speed internet connection and speakers. To register, visit wssda.org/workshops. Registration closes Friday, Sept. 3.

Question of the Month

How do we fill a board vacancy?



In the event of a board vacancy, the remaining board members fill the vacancy by appointment.

It is in the best interest of the district to encourage as many citizens as possible to consider school board service. After public notice of the vacancy in the general news media and in district publications, the Board receives applications from any qualified persons seeking to fill the position. Candidates must be U.S. citizens and qualified voters residing in the school district and in some cases residents of the director district.

WSSDA recommends that the board select three to five candidates for interviews—those whose experience and interests suggest they will be most able to contribute breadth of view to the board's decision-making, and effectively represent a large

proportion of the community. The interviews are conducted in open public meeting; discussion of the candidates' qualifications take place in executive session, and no straw voting may take place in executive session. The nomination of the board's choice and the roll call vote takes place in the open public meeting. The board will then appoint the chosen candidate to serve until the next regularly scheduled board election, when a director will be elected for the unexpired term, if any. The board's choice should be the person who, in its judgment, is most likely to contribute to the growth and development of the district's educational programs and operations.

The appointment must be approved by not less than three members of the board. If there are fewer than three current members, the educational service district board members will appoint the number of members needed to constitute a legal majority of the board. If the board fails to fill a vacancy within 90 days, the ESD board members will fill the vacancy.

Sullivan to lead WSSDA's Governmental Relations program



Sullivan

WSSDA Executive Director Jonelle Adams has announced the appointment of Marie Sullivan as head of WSSDA's Governmental Relations Department.

Sullivan begins at a crucial point in the Association's legislative process. Though she doesn't officially begin until Sept. 1, literally on her first day after hire she participated in the WSSDA Legislative Committee meeting July 23-24 as it prepared proposals for September's Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly will establish WSSDA's legislative program for the coming year, setting the direction for Sullivan's efforts.

"We're extremely pleased to bring onboard someone who has such a deep knowledge and impressive array of experience in Washington's legislative arena," said Adams. "Marie comes to us with an eagerness to put those skills to work benefiting public school children."

As government relations director for the state Department of Commerce for five years, Sullivan represented a cabinet-level agency with more than 180 programs, 350 employees and a combined capital and operating budget of \$2 billion. There, and in previous positions such as government relations director for the Department of Information Services, she worked closely with legislators and staff on both sides of the aisle addressing a wide range of issues and resulting in a long list of successes. Her experience and education also encompass communications, journalism, media relations and event planning in positions such as communications director of the Washington Department of Licensing and executive director of the Gig Harbor Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

WSSDA's Heart serves on budget panel



WSSDA President-elect Deborah Heart (Goldendale) has been selected to serve on the Governor's Committee on Transforming Washington's Budget, a panel of nearly three dozen leaders drawn from across the state that will serve as a sounding

board for the governor and her budget staff as they look for solutions to the state's ongoing budget challenges. Heart is seen here at left listening to a public meeting presentation by Marty Brown, the governor's budget director. For more information, including ways to provide budget comments to the governor, visit www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/budget.



WSSDA Legislative Assembly

September 24 - 25, 2010
Hilton Hotel
Vancouver, Washington

Meet WSSDA's new executive director, Jonelle Adams, as well as Director of Governmental Relations Marie Sullivan, at September's Legislative Assembly in Vancouver. Adams took leadership of the Association offices in mid-July, and Sullivan has been hired to fill the position recently vacated by Dan Steele.

During the assembly, school directors will approve and prioritize WSSDA's legislative positions for the coming year. Key issues to be addressed include:

- **Basic Education funding** – As the Legislature begins implementation of a new finance system, what are school directors' funding priorities? What will be the sources of revenue?
- **Local control** – Local control of schools is continually challenged by issues such as the potential implementation of Core 24 requirements and national common core standards, and by intensifying conversations about forced school district consolidation.
- **Unfunded mandates** – As budgets tighten, reduction of unfunded mandates grows in importance, and little legislative relief has been provided to date.

Registration brochures for WSSDA's fall Legislative Assembly have been mailed. For online registration, visit wssda.org/assembly.

Regional Meetings begin next month



WSSDA Regional Meetings are small, close-to-home gatherings—an opportunity to connect, ask questions, share information with school directors from around your region, and hear presentations on current issues from education leaders.

Individual meeting agendas will be posted later this summer. Among other topics, you can count on an update on legislative initiatives and a brief update from WSSDA officers and staff on association activities.

Fall Regional Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, Sept. 28, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Anacortes
- Wednesday, Sept. 29, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Carnation
- Thursday, Sept. 30, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Wilbur
- Saturday, Oct. 2, 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. ~ Quilcene
- Monday, Oct. 4, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Walla Walla
- Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Brewster
- Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Yakima
- Wednesday, Oct. 6, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Hoquiam
- Wednesday, Oct. 6, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Ephrata
- Thursday, Oct. 7 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Lakewood
- Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Brush Prairie
- Wednesday, Oct. 13, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Republic
- Thursday, Oct. 14, 6:00-8:30 p.m. ~ Spokane Valley

If your district is interested in hosting a future Regional Meeting, please contact your WSSDA Board of Directors Representative or Soky Chan (360.252.3012) in the WSSDA office.

NEWS BRIEFS

A U.S. Department of Education study showed that, although mandatory random student drug testing for high school students trying out for extracurricular activities was a deterrent to current drug use, it did not affect students' plans for future drug use. In schools that tested, fewer students in sports and activities self-reported using drugs, compared with those in schools with no drug-testing program.

However, in schools both with and without mandatory testing, one-third of students indicated they “probably” or “definitely” would use drugs in the next year. The report is posted at <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/pubs/20104025/pdf/20104025.pdf>.

A new report entitled *Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups* has been released by the U.S. Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences (IES). An analysis of current conditions and trends in the education of students by racial and ethnic group, the report presents indicators illustrating student achievement for White, Black, Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students. The 29 indicators provide data on demographics, enrollment patterns, student achievement; student behaviors that can

affect education; participation in postsecondary education; and educational outcomes. Read the full report at <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010015/>.

The National School Safety Coalition is working to inform schools about the recall of approximately 2500 Whitco Company LP stadium light poles 70 feet tall or higher. The poles, weighing from one to four tons, can fracture or crack and fall over, posing a risk of serious injury or death to bystanders. As of June 2010, CPSC has confirmed eleven incidents in which Whitco Co. LP poles fell. For more information regarding this recall and additional recalls and safety information go to www.clickcheckandprotect.org.

NBC News will launch “Education Nation” the week of September 27—a nationally broadcast in-depth conversation about improving education in America, beginning with an interactive two-day summit on Rockefeller Plaza in New York City. Renowned education leaders from across the nation will participate. News coverage and programming will air on all NBC News programs and platforms, extending beyond the two-day summit for the entire week of Sept. 27.

State board looks at revisions to Core 24

After in-depth discussions, the State Board of Education has deferred until next month a provisional adoption of possible revisions to the “Core 24” High School Graduation Framework.

During its meeting in July, the board debated various ideas for transforming the proposed Core 24 framework. The board was unable to reach consensus, however, and will take up the issue again at its next regular meeting in September.

Adopted by SBE in 2008, Core 24 sets forth a proposed framework of 24 credits students must earn to graduate from high school. In approving the framework, the board also emphasized that implementation would be contingent on full funding from the Legislature.

Given the state’s financial plight, there have been growing concerns about Core 24 becoming an unfunded mandate on school districts already struggling with budget cutbacks. Concerns have also been raised about lack of local flexibility, the impact on

English Language Learner and struggling students, the supply of qualified teachers, and challenges related to arts and science facilities.

At the July meeting, the board discussed several credit framework options, including a “Quality Core” of 20 prescribed credits required for a diploma plus four locally determined elective credits that would not be specified.

WSSDA President Kevin Laverty (Mukilteo) praised the board for promoting high expectations for students, a goal shared by school board members. He noted, however, that full funding for Core 24 is “not realistic” for the foreseeable future.

“Until there is full funding by the state for a six-period day, the 20-plus-four approach is a reasonable alternative,” Laverty said.

The State Board will resume discussion when it meets Sept. 14-15 at the Puget Sound ESD in Renton. For additional information, visit www.sbe.wa.gov.

Candidate filing now open for SBE election

Declarations of candidacy are now being accepted in the upcoming special election for Position 3 on the State Board of Education. The position is one of five on the 16-member board that are elected by local school board members.

The special election is required to complete the remainder of an unexpired term. The position is currently held by Connie Fletcher of Issaquah, appointed in September 2009 to fill a vacancy.

Declarations of candidacy will be accepted until Aug. 31, 2010. To be eligible to file, candidates must reside in the Western Washington region (which is defined in state rules as Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, and Whatcom counties).

For declaration forms and other election information, visit the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website at www.k12.wa.us/ProfPractices/adminresources/SBElections.aspx.

WSSDA will provide a printed and online voters’ guide to the SBE election this fall. Ballots will be mailed to school directors in Western Washington Oct. 29 and will be due back to OSPI no later than Nov 24. Results will be announced Dec. 7.

WELCOME, NEW SCHOOL DIRECTORS!

Congratulations and welcome to the following new school directors:

Kathi Jo Moore, *Rainier*
Eugene Wilson, *Wishram*

Thanks and best wishes to those who have recently left board service:

Peter Bentley, *Bellevue*
Dan Schober, *Lopez Island*
Sherri Crenshaw, *Marysville*
Michael Kundu, *Marysville*
Jeanie Fisk, *Morton*
Viola Kamuda, *Wishram*
Vicki Ybarra, *Yakima*

twitter



Sign up for a Twitter account to receive WSSDA’s “tweets”—brief updates on education news and association activities. Visit www.twitter.com/wssda.

NSBA invites school directors to become Facebook fans

The National School Boards Association invites you to become a fan of its Facebook page. Visit www.nsba.org/marketing to learn how to set up a Facebook account, become a fan of NSBA's page, and see how NSBA can help you in your role as a school leader.

To find WSSDA on Facebook, go to Facebook.com/wssda and click on "Like."

Boards of Distinction deadline next month

Applications for the WSSDA Boards of Distinction/Board of the Year program are due Sept. 27, 2010. The application process is an excellent way to assess your board's alignment with the Washington School Board Standards.

Benchmark "A" of each standard is the basis for this year's application. The new streamlined process limits paperwork, encourages collaboration by the board/superintendent team, and creates the opportunity to reapply each year as the program focuses on a new set of benchmarks.

Districts of all sizes—small, medium and large—are encouraged to apply. Visit wssda.org > Awards & Recognition for details and application forms.

WSSDA seeks FRN members

Members interested in education advocacy at the federal level may consider joining WSSDA's Federal Relations Network, part of a nationwide network of school directors under the auspices of the National School Boards Association. FRN members have the opportunity to travel to the NSBA FRN Conference in Washington D.C.: Feb. 6-8, 2011. Questions? Contact Sheila Chard (S.Chard@wssda.org or 360.252.3011).



More than 400 already registered for WSSDA Annual Conference

Register now for WSSDA's Annual Conference, Nov. 17-20, 2010, in Spokane.

Why attend Annual Conference when school district budgets are tight? School directors are elected to be stewards of a great deal of public money. This money will go further if school directors are well informed. Mistakes cost time and dollars your district cannot afford to waste, and the tools you receive at WSSDA's conference will help you make well-informed decisions about policy, personnel, finance, curriculum and communications.

Board training is essential—a sound investment for every district. You will take home valuable information which will benefit your students. The strategies you learn through clinic sessions, workshops, roundtables, speakers, and exhibitors can be implemented in your district to support and improve student learning.

Registration brochures

Your *Power Up* registration brochure will be mailed this month, however, online conference registration has been open since May at wssda.org/conference, and hotel reservations can be made through the website as well. Save money by registering by Oct. 22; check the website for information on conference scholarships as well.

Webinar: Getting the most out of Annual Conference

This year WSSDA will offer its first-ever webinar preparing you to gain the most from your conference experience

in Spokane. Watch for details about this free online opportunity which will take place in October.

Last call for student entertainment

If your district has a high energy show choir or other group of student entertainers who deserve to be showcased at the conference, please send a DVD of their performance as soon as possible to Connie Lauderdale at 360.493.9231 or C.Lauderdale@wssda.org.

Exhibitors sought for WSSDA Exhibit Hall

Companies with products and services of interest to educators are encouraged to reserve a booth in the WSSDA Exhibit Hall. Take advantage of Washington state's largest gathering of education decision-makers to showcase your products. For details, contact Josie DeLellis, Exhibit Manager, 206.933.1317, Josephine.delellis@gmail.com or visit wssda.org/conference and click on the link "For Exhibitors."

The Dish

The conference includes a traditional Thursday "Boards' Night Out," your opportunity to dine out with colleagues in Spokane restaurants. WSSDA's conference website includes a link to Spokane dining options. See the publication *The Dish, Spokane's Premier Dining Guide*, at wssda.org/conference (click on "Visitor Information"). You will also find a link to the Spokane Regional Convention and Visitor's Bureau's colorful guide to area attractions.



WSSDA Direct is published monthly by the Washington State School Directors' Association to provide information of interest to school directors and the education community. The views expressed in opinion articles appearing in WSSDA Direct are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent WSSDA policies or positions. If you have a disability and need this publication in an alternate format, please contact the WSSDA Communications Department.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- WSSDA Nominating Committee, Teleconference. . . August 7
- WSSDA Workshop: The Changing Face of School Finance, Olympia. August 12
- Leadership WSSDA, Olympia August 13-14
- WSSDA Board of Directors retreat, Everett August 27-29
- Labor Day Sept. 6
- Board of Natural Resources, Olympia Sept. 7
- Rosh Hashanah (Begins at sundown 9/8) Sept. 9-10
- State Board of Education, Renton. Sept. 15-16
- Yom Kippur (Begins at sundown 9/17) Sept. 18
- WSSDA Board of Directors, Vancouver Sept. 23
- WSSDA Legislative Committee, Vancouver. Sept. 23
- WSSDA Small Schools Task Force, Vancouver. Sept. 24
- WSSDA Resolutions Committee, Vancouver. Sept. 24
- WSSDA Legislative Assembly, Vancouver Sept. 24-25
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Anacortes Sept. 28
- WSSDA Regional Meeting, Wilbur Sept. 30

For event details, visit wssda.org > Calendar.

WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

- WSSDA WORKSHOP: THE CHANGING FACE OF SCHOOL FINANCE
Olympia: August 12
- WSSDA ONLINE LEARNING: PUTTING YOUR DATA TO WORK FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
Sept. 8-Oct. 6
- WSSDA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
Vancouver, Washington: Sept. 24-25
- NSBA T+L
Phoenix, Arizona: Oct. 19-21
- WSSDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE
Spokane: Nov. 17-20
- NSBA FEDERAL RELATIONS NETWORK (FRN) CONFERENCE
Washington D.C.: Feb. 6-8, 2011
- WASA/WSSDA Legislative Conference
Olympia: Feb. 27-28, 2011