



# News Release

Washington State School Directors' Association  
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**For Immediate Release.**

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## **Nine boards honored as Boards of Distinction**

Nine school boards in Washington were named this week as *Boards of Distinction* by the Washington State School Directors' Association.

These boards govern the school districts of Auburn, Ferndale, Issaquah, Kent, Puyallup, Riverview, South Kitsap, University Place and West Valley (Spokane).

“Each of these boards is a great example of the excellent work of Washington’s 295 school boards and 1,477 school board members,” said Chris Nieuwenhuis, President of the association. “We applaud their commitment to their students and communities.”

The West Valley, Auburn, Kent and Puyallup boards also earned special awards for attaining Board of Distinction honors five times.

The annual Boards of Distinction 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, and help close the opportunity gap.

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

- Conducting business in a fair, respectful and responsible manner.
- Leading the development, articulation and stewardship of a vision of learning.
- Providing for the safety and security of students and staff.
- Measuring student academic progress and needs based on valid assessments.
- Ensuring board and district transparency through an open and accountable process.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel.

The boards will be honored November 20 during the 2015 WSSDA Annual Conference in Bellevue. At that time, the association will also announce the 2015 Boards of the Year winners. These are the highest-scoring boards from each district enrollment category. School directors for each honored Board of Distinction, with superintendents in parentheses, are:

Auburn: Anne Baunach, Laurie Bishop, Carol Seng, Ryan Van Quill, Ray Vefik, (Alan Spicciati)

Ferndale: Kevin Erickson, Hugh Foulke, Stuart McKay, Andrew McLaurin, Lee Anne Riddle, (Linda Quinn)

Issaquah: Lisa Callan, Brian Deagle, Marnie Maraldo, Anne Moore, Suzanne Weaver, (Ron Thiele)

Kent: Agda Burchard, Karen DeBruler, Russ Hanscom, Debbie Straus, Maya Vengadasalam, (Calvin Watts)

Puyallup: Pat Donovan, Chris Ihrig, Pat Jenkins, Dane Looker, Kathy Yang, (Tim Yeomans)

Riverview: Danny Edwards, Jodi Fletcher, Lori Oviatt, Sabrina Parnell, Carol Van Noy, (Anthony Smith)

South Kitsap: Rebecca Diehl, Keith Garton, Patty Henderson, Chris Lemke, Gregory Wall, (Michelle Reid)

University Place: Mary Lu Dickinson, Ethelda Burke, Michael Ehart, Annie Fitzsimmons, Rick Maloney, (Patti Banks)

West Valley (Spokane): Bob Dompier, Dan Hansen, Pam McLeod, Adam Mortensen, Bob Wentworth, (Gene Sementi)

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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 about \$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.