



Northwest Educational Service District 189

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Nine Regional Schools are 2015 Schools of Distinction

Outstanding improvement in reading and math sustained over a five-year period is the reason that nine schools in the Northwest Educational Service District (NWESD) region received the 2015 School of Distinction (SOD) award today. The Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE) in partnership with the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD), the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP), Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA), and Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD) have recognized schools in the top 5% of improvement for their levels.

The 2015 School of Distinction award is the ninth annual award, and honors 92 schools across Washington State. These awards are not intended as a replacement for the state and federal accountability measures of school performance, but rather as a supplemental measure to recognize and celebrate school staff, students, and leaders who improve performance for all students over a sustained period of time in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

The design principles of the School of Distinction awards have remained unchanged. However, with the spring 2015 Smarter Balanced Assessments, some challenges were presented in celebrating sustained improvement. One change that was made this year was the addition of 4-year and 5-year graduation rates for high schools. It was also determined to use percentile ranks (normalized data) over 5 years in ELA and Math for Elementary and Middle School awards.

A representative from the NWESD will travel to each awarded district, to recognize the SOD award winners with their leadership teams or school boards. "I am excited and honored to be celebrating this outstanding achievement with nine schools in our region," said NWESD Superintendent Dr. Jerry Jenkins. "Teachers and leaders in our districts are working tirelessly to build better systems and provide a first-rate education for every child, every day. This award recognizes the benefit of that sustained hard work over several years, which is a tremendous accomplishment."

2015 Schools of Distinction in the NWESD Region

District	School	Level
Everett	Garfield Elementary	Elementary
Ferndale	Central Elementary	Elementary
Lakewood	English Crossing Elementary	Elementary
Lopez	Lopez Middle High	Middle School
Marysville	Bio Med Academy*	High School
Oak Harbor	Oak Harbor Middle	Middle School
Sedro Woolley	Clear Lake Elementary	Elementary
Snohomish	Cathcart Elementary	Elementary
Snohomish	Machias Elementary	Elementary

*indicates repeat winners