

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seven district schools win Washington Achievement Awards

All three of the Puyallup School District's comprehensive high schools and four of its elementary schools have been selected to receive one or more Washington Achievement Awards.

The annual awards program, sponsored by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and State Board of Education, celebrates Washington's top-performing schools. A total of 413 schools statewide received the award.

"We are very proud of all of our schools for their focus on growth and achievement," said district Superintendent Tim Yeomans. "The seven Puyallup School District schools honored this year exemplify the district's continued focus on academic excellence."

Elementary, middle/junior high, and comprehensive high schools are recognized for achievement in six categories: overall excellence, high progress, reading growth, math growth, extended (5-year) graduation rate, and English language acquisition.

For the second consecutive year, Woodland Elementary School earned the top award for overall excellence. The award is based on state assessment data in science, writing, reading, and math for the past three years.

Woodland Elementary is among the top 5 percent of schools in the state to receive the highest honor.

Emerald Ridge and Rogers high schools have been selected to receive the high progress award, which is based on students' reading and math scores.

Spinning Elementary School received two awards — one for high growth in reading and the other for high growth in math. Puyallup High, and Ridgecrest and Sunrise elementary schools, also won the high growth award in math.

This is also the third consecutive year that Ridgecrest Elementary is being honored with the state award. Last year, the school won three Washington Achievement Awards (overall excellence,

science, and closing achievement gaps). The school was also honored for overall excellence in 2012.

“So many schools in our state are doing good work to make a difference for kids,” said state Schools Superintendent Randy Dorn. “These awards represent some of the best. It’s an honor to recognize them and celebrate their success.”

The award-winning schools will be honored at a ceremony on April 24 at Timberline High School in Lacey. A banner and an etched acrylic award will be given to all schools to display in their buildings.