

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Puyallup School Board honored as state Board of Distinction

The Puyallup School Board has been named a Board of Distinction in Washington state.

Puyallup is one of 17 school boards from among 295 school districts statewide selected to receive the recognition this year from the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA).

This is the fifth time in the past six years that Puyallup has received the honor.

The five-member Puyallup School Board will be recognized on November 20 at the annual WSSDA conference in Spokane.

Superintendent Tim Yeomans, who will also attend the ceremony in Spokane, said, "We are very fortunate to have a school board which is directly involved in sponsoring the work of improving instruction, student growth, and achievement."

Board President Chris Ihrig added, "We are honored to be recognized as a Board of Distinction, but we are most excited that this award is an acknowledgment of the amazing team of administrators, teachers, support staff, and community members that we are privileged to collaborate and partner with in a common vision to bring educational excellence to our students."

Locally, the directors will be recognized for the special honor at the December 1 Puyallup School Board meeting. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. at Ferrucci Junior High School, 3213 Wildwood Park Dr. in Puyallup.

The award recognizes the work of school board directors Pat Donovan, Chris Ihrig, Pat Jenkins, Dane Looker, and Kathy Yang.

The Board of Distinction program honors school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards. The standards promote research-based governance practices that lead to high levels of student and district achievement.

Award applicants are required to submit an essay and supportive evidence to demonstrate how

they are putting the new standards into practice. This year, applicants were asked to address the following benchmarks:

- Promoting healthy relationships by inspiring and empowering others.
- Setting and communicating high expectations for student learning, with clear goals and plans.
- Creating conditions for student and staff success.
- Holding schools and the district accountable for student learning expectations.
- Engaging the local community and representing the values and expectations it holds for schools.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel.