



---

## SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

---

DR. TERRY BERGESON OLD CAPITOL BUILDING • PO BOX 47200 • OLYMPIA WA 98504-7200 • <http://www.k12.wa.us>

---

October 3, 2008

TEAM High School  
Dan Uhlenkott  
600 Bozarth  
Woodland, WA 98674

Dear Dan:

Congratulations! Because of the tremendous gains your students have made in their mathematics and reading skills over the past several years, **your school has earned the State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Award and will be recognized as a 2008 "School of Distinction."** While you and your superintendent are receiving early notice of this award, please use discretion in sharing the news, as recipients of these awards will not be announced publicly until later in October.

This award celebrates the top five percent of elementary, middle, high and alternative schools that exceeded this year's state average performance on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning in reading and mathematics, as well as demonstrated outstanding improvement over time in both of those subjects. Your school is among just 100 statewide that will receive this recognition in 2008.

I created this award in 2007 to honor students, teachers, administrators, parents, schools and communities for the wonderful gains they've made in preparing our children to learn, work, live and succeed in the 21st century. It takes a lot of hard, tireless work and a true commitment to reach all of our students and help them be successful learners, and I am thrilled to be able to publicly honor your efforts.

**The press conference and awards ceremony to honor this year’s “schools of distinction” will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Oct. 22 at Garfield High School in Seattle.** During the ceremony, you will receive an award. A reception will follow. If possible, please bring to the event the people who helped you accomplish these gains with your students – teachers, parent leaders, your superintendent, school board and community members.

While I hope you will be able to join me and your fellow honorees in Seattle, we also will hold regional recognition events the morning of Oct. 22. We will broadcast the press conference live via our statewide K-20 videoconferencing system, and a member of my staff will be on hand at eight regional locations outside the Seattle metro area to present awards to local schools.

#### **Regional Celebrations**

If your school is in ...	You will celebrate at ...
ESD 101	ESD 101, Spokane
ESD 105	ESD 105, Yakima
ESD 112	ESD 112, Vancouver
ESD 113	OSPI (Brouillet Room), Olympia
ESD 114	ESD 114, Bremerton
ESD 123	ESD 123, Pasco
ESD 171	ESD 171, Wenatchee
ESD 189	ESD 189, Anacortes

**Please RSVP to [hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us](mailto:hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us) as soon as possible, and no later than Oct. 15, and tell us if you will be attending the ceremony in Seattle or at your regional location.** Please also let us know approximately how many people will be attending from your school.

My office will work with reporters statewide to publicize all of the schools receiving recognition this year. But we need to work together to make sure the news doesn’t get out before Oct. 22. **Please do not contact news reporters or other media representatives regarding your award until the week of October 20, and do make clear to**

**them that nothing about this award can be broadcast or published in print or online until the Oct. 22 press conference and awards ceremony begins.** Members of the media should be familiar with such an “embargo” on this information. While we want you to feel free to share information in advance about your award with key people in your school and district who will want to be part of the recognition ceremony, it’s also important to preserve the spontaneity and news value of this event.

Our Excellence in Education Recognition Coordinator Hilary Seidel at [hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us](mailto:hilary.seidel@k12.wa.us) will be contacting you shortly to find out if you have information you would like to share with us about specific steps you have taken at your school to improve student achievement in reading and math. We also would appreciate receiving a photo of activity in your school that we can use as part of our recognition ceremony and post on our Web site. If you have questions, please feel free to e-mail Hilary or call her at 360-725-6117.

I applaud you and your school community! You should be very proud!

Warm regards,

Dr. Terry Bergeson  
Superintendent of  
Public Instruction

Cc: School District Superintendent