

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rock Island Elementary RECOGNIZED BY STATE AS SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

State School Supt. Terry Bergeson applauds Rock Island Elementary as one of 86 “amazing” schools in Washington State.

Wenatchee—Oct. 9, 2007-Rock Island Elementary] has been named one of 86 “Schools of Distinction” by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for dramatic improvements in student reading and mathematics over the past several years.

On Wednesday, Principal KC Kwak joined the state superintendent of public instruction, Dr. Terry Bergeson, along with representatives of Rock Island Elementary’s staff to accept the award at a statewide press event at ESD 171.

OSPI’s Schools of Distinction represent the top 5 percent of elementary, middle and high schools whose students have shown outstanding growth in both reading and mathematics skills during a six-year period. This year’s winning schools include 51 elementary schools, 20 middle schools and 15 high schools – out of nearly 2,500 schools in the state.

To be considered for the award, each school had to meet the current year’s state learning targets on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning for students in both reading and mathematics.

Schools that met the reading and mathematics targets were then evaluated for six-year gains on the state’s “Learning Improvement Index.” Because the award is based on improvement across a six-year period, only results from grades four, seven and 10 were used, as those are the only grade levels with six years of trend data.

Independent research and analysis to establish criteria for the awards and to identify the schools with the greatest improvement was conducted by Greg Lobdell of the Center for Educational Effectiveness in Redmond.

Rock Island Elementary has a long tradition of excellence in education and very strong connections to our community. All Rock Island staff, students, and parents are a team with a commitment to quality work based on high expectations.

Our goal is to have all students on grade level by the end of third grade. We have all day kindergarten and early intervention which accelerates learning. Staff collaborates on what strategies, activities, and professional development is necessary for meeting our goals. Common time to plan and longer staff meetings assist staff with curriculum alignment, reviewing student work, and creating interventions. We assess student’s regularly to see how they are progressing. The data is used to make lesson and program decisions. We celebrate student success with quarterly assemblies that clearly link achievement with effort and improvement.

School leaders from each of the winning schools were presented with awards and a large banner reading "School of Distinction – 2007 State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Award."

Superintendent Dr. Garn Christensen, along with the Eastmont School Board, congratulates Rock Island Staff and thanks them for all their hard work.

Additional information on the award program, and a list of all Schools of Distinction, can be found on the OSPI Web site at www.k12.wa.us. To learn more about the Eastmont School District or visit www.eastmont206.org .