

ESD performance audit completed

When the last edition of this publication went to press, the state's nine ESDs were in the midst of a comprehensive performance audit mandated by Initiative 900. The audit – which included a report on the ESD system as a whole, as well as individual reports on each ESD – has since been completed.

The ESDs were among the first entities in the state to undergo performance audits, which eventually will cover all state and local governments, including school districts.

Two more K-12 performance audits are now in process – one examining travel practices in 13 school districts and another examining administration in the 10 largest school districts.

Performance audits differ from customary fiscal audits in that they examine the effectiveness of functions and activities. The process can be rigorous. In the case of ESDs, auditors conducted week-long site visits that included interviews and surveys of both ESD staff and local districts.

In addition, each ESD was asked to respond to a 28-page document requesting 238 data items covering 11 topic areas.

The ESDs, individually and as a system, received many commendations, along with recommendations. As a system, the auditors found that local districts strongly appreciate ESD services and that the ESDs are well run.

The individual ESD 101 report contained seven specific commendations, including

recognition of the organization's participatory governance structure and strong board-agency relationships. ESD 101 survey results also were highly positive. Satisfaction levels were measured in the high 90s, in the percentage of districts saying ESD 101 was efficient, effective and critical to local success.

Most of the savings suggested for ESD 101 were related to regulatory functions required in statute. Removal of these functions would require legislative action transferring responsibility to another entity.

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Recommended savings that are within ESD 101 control would average \$7,914 per year over five years. These savings would be largely achieved through energy saving upgrades and automatic devices to dispense custodial products.

The ESDs have held public hearings on the system and individual reports. Formal responses to specific recommendations are due later this year.

Gary Coe joins ESD 101 Board



ESD 101 is pleased to introduce its newest Board member – Gary Coe of Loon Lake.

Coe was appointed to the Board last summer, then elected in the fall, to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of Bob Peterson, Deer Park. He will serve in Director District 4, covering the Chewelah, Colville, Deer Park, Evergreen, Loon Lake, Northport, Onion Creek, Summit Valley and Valley school districts and portions of the Mead and Spokane districts.

Coe is well known in Eastern Washington education circles, having worked in both the Valley and Mary Walker school districts. After working three years as a teacher and coach in Valley, he moved on to a long career at Mary Walker that began as a teacher in 1977. He served as high school principal his final 13 years before retiring in 2004.

Peterson served four years on the ESD 101 Board and, prior to that, 20 years on the Deer Park Board.

Tekoa's Mendoza honored



Tammy Mendoza, left, was recently honored during a surprise celebration at Tekoa Elementary School following her selection as ESD 101's 2008 Teacher of the Year. The veteran 6th grade teacher was selected in a regional competition open to educators in a seven-county region. Participants in the event included Tekoa Superintendent Wayne Massie, right.

**ESD 101
Board of Directors**



District 1:
Jamie Parker
Republic



District 2:
Dwaine Klein
Edwall



District 3:
Kim Carlson
Metaline Falls



District 4:
Gary Coe
Loon Lake



District 5:
Robert Bauer
Uniontown



District 6:
Dr. Gary Livingston
Spokane



District 7:
Ronald Schmidt
Veradale
Board Chair



**Superintendent
and Board
Secretary**
Dr. Terry Munther

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Munther announces retirement



Dr. Terry Munther, superintendent of ESD 101, recently informed the Board of Directors that 2007-08 will be his last year with the agency. He intends to retire in the summer of 2008.

Dr. Munther joined ESD 101 in 1996 as assistant superintendent for curriculum, instruction and assessment and was named superintendent two years later. His retirement will cap a 30-year Washington state career that also has included work as a teacher, coach, principal and district superintendent. His prior superintendencies were in the St. John-Endicott and Medical Lake school districts. He holds a doctorate from Washington State University.

WSSDA: It's time to revisit the basics of basic education in 2008 session

The Washington Legislature will kick off its 60-day, 2008 session on January 14. In preparation for the session, the legislative assembly of the Washington State School Directors' Association approved 54 proposals for the Legislature's consideration, in addition to the permanent proposals previously approved.

Topping WSSDA's list is its quest for updated definitions of basic education and basic education funding. The association supports legislation to amend the tax system to equitably fund K-12 education in an age of standards-based reform.

The annual WASA/WSSDA Legislative Conference is scheduled near the mid-point of the session, on February 10-11 at the Olympia Red Lion. Detailed information regarding

The ESD 101 Board has initiated a search for a new superintendent. Northwest Leadership Associates, a Liberty Lake-based superintendent search firm, has been retained to assist the Board with this work. The initial step in the search process is to develop a position description and leadership profile that will guide the recruitment and selection efforts.

The Board of Directors is seeking local district input on the qualifications and qualities that should be sought in the next ESD 101 leader. A survey that asks your input on this important topic is available by visiting the ESD 101 Web site at <http://www.esd101.org> and clicking on the "Superintendent Search Survey" button, or by visiting <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB226Y2F885C6>. Please take a few minutes to share your thoughts.

the agenda will be mailed to each district. Information also can be obtained from WSSDA at (360) 252-3010.

This is the delegation that will represent the ESD 101 region during the 2008 session:

3rd District Sen. Lisa Brown Rep. Alex Wood Rep. Timm Ormsby	4th District Sen. Bob McCaslin Rep. Larry Crouse Rep. Lynn Schindler
6th District Sen. Chris Marr Rep. Don Barlow Rep. John Ahern	7th District Sen. Bob Morton Rep. Bob Sump Rep. Joel Kretz
9th District Sen. Mark Schoesler Rep. Steve Hailey Rep. Joe Schmick	