



STATE OF WASHINGTON

November 19, 2007

Bev Lund and Staff
Whitman Elementary
5400 N. Helena St.
Spokane, Washington 99207-4000

Dear Principal Lund and Staff:

Congratulations!

Because of the tremendous gains in your students' mathematics and reading scores, your school has been named a "School of Distinction" for having earned the *2007 State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Award*.

This new award has been created to honor students, teachers, administrators, parents, schools, and communities for the wonderful gains they've made toward preparing our children to learn, work, live, and succeed in the 21st century. Winning schools not only met state performance standards on mathematics and reading in 2007, but are also among the top five percent in the state in the rate of improvement in the percentage of students meeting those standards over the past six years.

As a School of Distinction, you are doing amazing things. You've revolutionized the way teachers and staff work together and the ways you help kids learn. You're confirming the courageous conviction that all kids can learn, and giving lie to the misconception that an education is something only some kids deserve. We want everyone to recognize that you are changing students' lives and, in doing so, literally changing the world.

We are extremely proud of you, your students and their families, and we know your community is proud of you, as well. Thanks, from the bottom of our hearts, to everyone who contributed to this impressive outcome.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Terry Bergeson in black ink.

Terry Bergeson
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Handwritten signature of Christine O. Gregoire in black ink.

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor