

The WSPTA Outstanding Educator Award is presented to an individual who has exhibited continued and dedicated statewide contributions and efforts to enhance the educational outcomes of all children or youth.

Congratulations to our 2026 recipient, Anne Arnold!




This year's recipient is Anne Arnold, the Director of Preschool to 5th Grade Instruction and Early Learning Programs with Everett Public Schools. I'd like to share a small part about why I respect her so much and what makes her outstanding. I hope I can do her justice.

In her over 25 years in education, Anne has shown herself to be a visionary leader in the P-3, or preschool to third grade, early learning space. She has positively impacted our youngest learners not only within her own school district, but across Washington state and the nation.

She was a key partner as we worked on the early learning resolution for Washington State PTA. Thanks to her assistance, our members adopted a fully encompassing and relevant resolution titled 18.45 High-Quality Preschool to Third Grade Early Learning.

Through her partnership and work with the well-respected National P-3 Center, whose ultimate goal is to improve the education continuum that children experience from birth and preschool through 3rd grade, Anne has been a vital force in advancing the work in this resolution at the national level. By serving as a guest presenter for the University of Colorado Denver P-3 Leadership Certificate, a premier national credential, she directly supports and develops the next generation of school leaders to implement the high-quality, aligned early learning that WSPTA demands for Washington's children. This demonstrates Anne's status as a nationally recognized advocate for this work. She is not just participating in the conversation; she is actively shaping the leaders and systems to bring to fruition the policy standards that help



ensure *every* child enters fourth grade with the social, emotional, and academic foundation WSPTA strives for.

Anne's advocacy transcends individual classrooms to focus on *systems-level* reform. Her contributions to Washington State's P-3 Framework provide a roadmap for Washington school districts to not just close achievement gaps, but to proactively stop the gaps before they start. This mirrors WSPTA's commitment to equitable education opportunities included in WSPTA Resolution 18.38 Equitable Education Opportunities to Close Gaps Across the Achievement Spectrum.

A core pillar of Anne's P-3 advocacy is the integration of health and family engagement into the school structure. By advocating for horizontal and vertical alignment, she ensures that the health and well-being of our youngest learners is not an afterthought, but a central part of their educational journey. This supports multiple Washington State PTA Legislative Principles, as well as our whole-child advocacy platform.

By serving as a bridge between the National P-3 Center and school leaders across the state and country, Anne has fundamentally furthered WSPTA's mission to ensure that early learning is not a series of isolated events, but a cohesive, high-quality continuum that protects the health, welfare, and educational rights of every child in Washington.

In addition, Anne regularly testifies in Olympia on bills that positively and negatively impact early learning programs and students in our state.

Her Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Shelley Boten shares, "Anne is a passionate advocate for our youngest scholars in not just Washington, but she has created a legacy of support for early learners making both impact and ripple effect across the entire United States. It's an honor to lead alongside her in Everett Public Schools!"

As demonstrated by her leadership in the early learning space, she is truly worthy of the Washington State PTA Outstanding Educator award. Congratulations Anne!