



KEY SCHOOL DISTRICT FACTS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF SUPERINTENDENT TOM MURPHY

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

- Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS) students in grades 3, 4, 5, 8 and 10 scored above the state average on the math and reading sections of the 2008–09 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).
- The district has implemented a focus on High Quality Instruction, with an emphasis on professional coaching's role in our staff's development, based in part on the findings of the McKinsey Report.
- In June 2006, Standard and Poor's announced that three of the district's high schools -- Federal Way, Thomas Jefferson and Todd Beamer High Schools -- were among 51 schools in the state recognized for narrowing the achievement gap.
- The Federal Way School district is among the ten highest-performing districts in the state, based on WASL scores and other factors, by the Washington School Research Center at Seattle Pacific University in 2004.

INNOVATION

- The district opened the first Internet-based instruction program to students across the state 1996. In the 13 years since it has continued to offer innovative and challenging K-12 academic experiences to part-time and to full-time students.
- The district partnered with Technology Access Foundation to open the TAF Academy, a science and technology academics program focused on encouraging girls and minority students to study science and math, in September 2008.
- The first and only West-coast site of the Cambridge Program opened in fall, 2006, at Federal Way High School. In 2007, Lakota and Sacajawea Middle Schools added Cambridge Checkpoint Programs for high-achieving sixth through eighth grade students. In fall, 2008, Cambridge programs were implemented at several elementary schools.
- The district offers a free summer school program for any child who is not achieving grade level expectations.

ECONOMIC STABILITY

- For the past decade, FWPS has consistently been one of the top two districts in the state (serving over 10,000 students) in terms of the ratio of its budget going to classrooms versus administration.
- FWPS is doing more with less—Although we have the 8th highest total enrollment in the state, Federal Way is consistently in the bottom tier of state funding per pupil due to antiquated state funding formulas. Federal Way initiated a fair funding lawsuit to reconcile this economic inequity.
- The district has strong community support, evidenced by the passage of 13 consecutive operating levies in the past three decades. Voters also supported the district's first-ever technology levy in 2003 and two important construction bond measures in the past decade; the first in 1999 and the second in 2007.

HONORS

- Superintendent Murphy was presented the 2007 Washington State Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (WASCD) "Educating The Whole Child" Leadership Award.
- In early 2008, Federal Way High School's AVID Program was selected as a Demonstration School, one of the "best of the best," by the AVID organization. In 2009, Totem Middle School was also selected to be an AVID Demonstration School. Of 3,300 schools in the nation to offer AVID, only around 130 are designated as demonstration schools.
- Thomas Jefferson High School is the first high school in Federal Way Public Schools to be named to Newsweek's list of the top 1,500 high schools in the nation. The national newsmagazine's website lists Thomas Jefferson among 31 high schools in Washington state to make their annual list (2009).
- Federal Way Public Schools is one of six districts nationwide spotlighted by Harvard's Family Research Project in July 2009 for using innovative strategies to create and sustain family engagement systems.