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Spokane’s Adam Swinyard Named Washington State Superintendent of the Year

Focus on equity and excellence is the top priority for Spokane superintendent

OLYMPIA — Nov. 18, 2022 — Dr. Adam Swinyard, superintendent of Spokane Public Schools, has been named 2023 Superintendent of the Year by the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA). The announcement was made Nov. 18 during WASA’s Fall Superintendent Component meeting in Spokane.

The award is designed to recognize the outstanding leadership of active, front-line superintendents and pay tribute to those who lead Washington’s public schools.

“Dr. Swinyard is a champion for equity, as he brings a consistent and unwavering commitment to achieving more equitable outcomes for all students in the Spokane Public Schools,” said WASA Executive Director, Joel Aune. “A districtwide focus on addressing disproportionality in student discipline through implementation of a multi-tiered system of support model and the use of restorative practices is making a substantive difference for students.”

Aune added, “This systems approach has produced the creation of a more inclusive and connected school community that operates with a focus on serving the individual needs of students. Dr. Swinyard is effectively leading the district to a place where all—staff, students, and family—feel and experience a strong sense of belonging by boldly sharing love as the primary focus of the district. This focus has promoted a reawakening to the value and importance of relationships.”

“We congratulate Adam and the entire Spokane school community on this well-deserved honor,” said Aune.

Spokane Public Schools is the third largest district in Washington state, with 56 schools, 30,000 students in grades K-12, and over 5,000 staff members. The district set a record high graduation rate of 90.2% last year, and since 2018 has expanded their early learning opportunities from 70 Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program seats to more than 600.

Swinyard joined Spokane in 2013, where he worked as a principal at Sacajawea Middle School before becoming the district’s associate superintendent for teaching and learning and director of secondary schools. Prior to joining Spokane, Swinyard worked as an assistant principal in the Cheney School District.

Swinyard received his doctorate in education and master’s degree in education through Seattle Pacific University. He holds a bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Northwest University.

In addition to his educational experience, Swinyard secures community leadership experience with several local organizations, including the City of Spokane Mental Health Task Force, Spokane Mayor’s Advisory Council on Economic Vitality, and Greater Spokane Incorporated. Swinyard has also been an important voice in the AVID National Superintendent Collaborative, Education Research and Development Institute, WASA’s 2022 Fall Conference, and WSASCD’s “A Journey to Restorative Practices” article in 2018.

This past spring, Swinyard was recognized for his leadership by the Washington School Public Relations Association with its Crystal Apple Award. He was also previously nominated in 2015 and 2016 by the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) for its Washington State Middle School Principal of the Year Nominee and was a recipient of the AWSP Regional Principal of the Year in 2015.

As the state’s Superintendent of the Year, Swinyard will be a candidate for the 2023 American Association of School Administrators’ National Superintendent of the Year Award. The national

award will be announced in February during the AASA National Conference on Education in San Antonio, Texas.

In conjunction with the award, Washington's Superintendent of the Year will receive a \$1,000 check from D.A. Davidson & Company to use toward a school or educational program of their choice.

Recent recipients of the WASA Superintendent of the Year Award include:

- 2022: Susan Enfield, Highline SD
- 2021: Michelle Reid, Northshore SD (Also named National Superintendent of the Year)
- 2020: Greg Baker, Bellingham PS
- 2019: Michael Nelson, Enumclaw SD
- 2018: Frank Hewins, Franklin Pierce SD
- 2017: Gary Cohn, Everett PS

For a complete list of Washington state's Superintendents of the Year, click [here](#).



About the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA)

WASA (www.wasa-oly.org) is a non-profit organization committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful, valuable training support, and resources. WASA also strives to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. Membership is open to education administrators in Washington state.

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