

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, the mission of Washington's public school system is to ensure that all students achieve at high levels and possess the knowledge and skills to be responsible members of a democratic society and enjoy productive and satisfying lives; and

*WHEREAS*, Washington's 1,477 locally-elected school boards of directors and nine elected educational service district (ESD) boards are the core of the public education governance system in our state, serve more than 1.1 million students, have a combined annual budget of over \$15 billion, and employ approximately 120,000 people; and

*WHEREAS*, school boards play a crucial role in promoting student learning and achievement by creating a vision, establishing policies and budgets, and setting clear standards of accountability for all involved; and

*WHEREAS*, school board directors are directly accountable to residents in their districts and regions, serving as a vital link between members of the community and their schools; and

*WHEREAS*, school boards and ESDs provide a passionate voice of advocacy for public schools and the welfare of school children; and

*WHEREAS*, it is appropriate to recognize school board directors as outstanding public servants and champions for public education;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Jay Inslee, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim January 2024 as

### *School Board Recognition Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 8<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

