



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel named finalist for nation's Superintendent of the Year award**

***Dr. Heuschel  
one of only four  
superintendents  
in the U.S. being  
considered for  
2011 national  
Supt. of the Year***

Jan. 5, 2011—Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel has been named a finalist for the 2011 National Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Heuschel is one of only four school leaders throughout the U.S. being



considered for the recognition by the [American Association of School Administrators](http://www.aasa.org) (AASA), which selected Heuschel for her dedication to transforming schools, providing quality education for all students, and working with the school community to advance student success.

Dr. Heuschel measured well against AASA criteria: leadership, creativity in successfully meeting the needs of students, personal and organizational communication, professionalism, community involvement, and an understanding of regional, national and international issues.

The three other finalists are:

- Phinnize Fisher, superintendent, Greenville County School System, South Carolina
- Marcus Johnson, superintendent, Sanger Unified School District, California
- Tom Trigg, superintendent, Blue Valley Unified School District, Kansas

AASA will bring the four candidates to Washington DC next week for interviews and announce the national winner on February 17 at the organization's national conference in Denver, Co.

Dr. Heuschel was recently named the state [2011 Superintendent of the Year](http://www.wa.gov) by the Washington Association of School Administrators. She has been superintendent of the Renton School District, which serves more than 14,000 students, since 2006. She formerly held a number of senior management roles in schools and served as the Deputy State Superintendent at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in Olympia. She is a graduate of

Wheelock College in Boston and earned her master's degree in special education at Northwestern University. She earned her doctorate in educational leadership at Seattle Pacific University.

Heuschel has been recognized for her relentless pursuit of equity and excellence and unwavering belief that all students meet high personal and academic standards. She is quick, however, to attribute the district's success to the hard work and dedication of teachers and support staff, parents, students, as well as all of the communities that make up the district, and the partnerships between business and civic organizations.

Significant growth in student achievement has occurred in the district over the last five years. The district's graduation rate has steadily increased to an all-time high, reaching 93 percent for the last two consecutive years. The district is also closing the achievement gaps among all minority student groups. District schools and many staff have been recognized by state and local organizations for improvement, innovation and excellence. [Learn more about those recognitions here.](#)

The National Superintendent of the Year program, co-sponsored by [ARAMARK Education](#), [ING](#) and AASA and now in its 24<sup>th</sup> year, celebrates the contributions and leadership of public school superintendents. The program is open to all U.S., Canadian, and International school superintendents who plan to continue in the profession.

A \$10,000 college scholarship will be presented in the name of the National Superintendent of the Year to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated, or the school now serving the same area.

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