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### **Two Local Public Elementary Schools Win State Academic Awards**

**Monroe, WA** – Washington Achievement Awards were handed out this week to Maltby Elementary School in the area of Math Growth and Salem Woods Elementary School in Language Arts Growth. The award-winning schools were honored Tuesday during a ceremony at Union Gap School in Union Gap School District.

This is the 7th year of the awards which emphasize improvement using the State Board of Education Revised Achievement Index and statewide assessments for the three previous years to measure school performance.

“The Achievement Awards recognize schools and educators making a difference in student outcomes,” said Isabel Muñoz-Colón, State Board of Education Chair. “Award recipients are schools that have made measurable progress helping students prepare for college, career, and life. “A total of 258 schools earned Washington Achievement

Awards for 2015. That’s an average of less than one school per school district, but Monroe has two!

Bonnie McKerney, principal of Maltby Elementary School credited her staff with the achievements. “Maltby teachers work hard and teach to the math standards,” she said. “They hold each other accountable and work for success of every child.”

It has been a few years of changes with movement to new state standards, online state testing and changes within local school teaching teams. Janna Pope, principal at Salem Woods Elementary School, said she is delighted with the award but not surprised citing her staff members’ dedication to a high level of instruction throughout all those changes.

“Each grade level spends focused time on intervention and enrichment, specifically in reading,” Pope explained. “We have intentionally focused on connecting reading and writing across content, audiences and various genres.”

McKerney noted that because of the way the awards are assessed over three years, they especially recognize the strength of the team approach to learning. “Strong math instruction begins in kindergarten and moves up through the grades,” she said. “We are a team at Maltby! We love our kids and our school!”