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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Washington School District Selected as a Model District for State Inclusionary Practices Professional Development Project

Redmond, Wash. – Lake Washington School District (LWSD) was recently selected to serve as the model district for the state Inclusionary Practices Professional Development Project. The project is a result of Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1109 passed by the state Legislature which provided \$25,000,000 to the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction \(OSPI\)](#) to implement professional development in support of inclusionary practices in schools and districts. The state Legislature, OSPI and LWSD have made it a priority to provide more students with disabilities access to learn in general education settings with their non-disabled peers.

When students with disabilities are included in the general education classroom with their peers, they (and their nondisabled peers) have more positive academic and social outcomes. In comparison to other states, Washington lags in inclusivity. In Washington, only 56 percent of students with disabilities are included in general education classes for the majority of the school day. Across the nation, the average is 63 percent.

Through a partnership with OSPI, the University of Washington [Haring Center for Inclusive Education](#), the [Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession](#) (CSTP), and the [TIES Center](#) (a national technical assistance center on inclusive practices and policies), LWSD will have access to intensive technical assistance to create sustainable change in kindergarten through grade 8 so that students with significant cognitive disabilities can fully engage in the same instructional and non-instructional activities as their general education peers while also receiving additional specialized instruction in a way that meets individual learning needs. LWSD will also serve as a model district to support learning about implementing sustainable systems change to promote the success of students across all abilities and backgrounds.

LWSD was selected because of its work to create a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS), its leadership structure, and commitment to equity and inclusion. LWSD is the second largest district in Washington state serving over 31,000 students, including almost 4,000 students with disabilities.

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About Lake Washington: [Lake Washington School District](#) is a high-performing public school district serving Kirkland, Redmond, and Sammamish, Washington. It is the second-largest district in the state of Washington, with nearly 31,100 students in 56 schools.