



## NEWS RELEASE

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Renton High School graduate Bjorn Davis gets a congratulatory kiss from his grandmother after a recent graduation ceremony.

## 90% graduation rate for Renton high schools

**86% report they will attend college or university. Millions earned in scholarships**

June 28, 2010—Ninety percent of high school seniors in Renton School District's three comprehensive high schools earned diplomas earlier this month. Students met rigorous state requirements to graduate, including earning the prescribed number of high school class credits, passing state assessments, completing a culminating project and preparing a plan for life beyond high school.

Eighty-six percent of graduates report that they will enter college or university in the fall, and have received letters of acceptance from Ivy League colleges, in- and out-of-state schools, their parent's alma mater, and many others. Students received more than \$6 million in scholarships. Other students report they will join the workforce or the military; still others will take some time before continuing with future plans.

**Nearly 96% of graduating seniors pass state's high school proficiency exam**

Nearly 96 percent of Renton 12<sup>th</sup>-graders passed the state reading and writing exams to earn graduation. The state's education office recently released preliminary results from the first year of the new High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) which replaces the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).

This spring saw the first step in significant changes to the state testing system, including the introduction of the HSPE and the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP), the new tests for students in grades 3-8.

The number of district students passing the reading and writing tests—the tests currently required to graduate—for this year's graduating class were statistically even with last year's numbers: about 96 percent passed.

Results for all state tests, the high school science exam and the MSP, will be released in late August.

### **Class of 2013 Graduation Requirements**

This year's ninth graders, the class of 2013, will be the first to be required to pass all four state exams: reading, writing, math and science. Beginning with the class of 2013, students must earn three math credits to graduate. They will also be expected to pass end-of-course exams in algebra I and geometry, or the integrated math equivalents.

### **Comparisons 2009-2010 Renton's passing rates on state high school assessments**

#### **2010 (new High School Proficiency Exam [HSPE]-replaces the WASL)**

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Reading | 95.7% |
| Writing | 96.1% |
| Math    | 61.6% |

#### **2009 (WASL)**

|         |       |
|---------|-------|
| Reading | 95.1% |
| Writing | 96.4% |
| Math    | 64.7% |