

# A letter from DR. CAREY

JUNE 18, 2021



Dear ESD Families,

"This has been an incredibly challenging year . . . ," a sentiment shared with me many times over the past few days by students and adults alike. And, I don't disagree. In many cases I have to fight the urge to commiserate with my own stories of challenge and despair as a way of releasing my own tensions and angst as I work toward personal relief.

But, when I'm able to pull back from all those things that we (I) had no control over, and focus on what was accomplished by a community that was able to pull together in so many meaningful and impactful ways, I am encouraged.

I begin by sharing that I mean no ill will or shame to our neighboring districts. They all did what they could, given the resources and the "context" that they had to operate within. But we here in Enumclaw School District, accomplished so much.

- Our incredible teachers, support staff, and school leaders were back at their worksites on day one of the new school year.
- Our Birth to Five Center was the first to have students back in the buildings fulltime in October.
- Our district nurse, working with a company to screen staff for COVID, made ESD one of just seven districts in the state to offer mass COVID testing.
- ESD was one of the first, if not the first, to bring our students back to school in a hybrid learning environment.
- ESD was the first, if not only, district in King County to bring elementary aged students back 5 days per week and our secondary students back 4 days per week while supporting our remote only students.
- ESD is offering a robust academic summer school program for the first time that will include close to 300 students grades 1-8.
- ESD was one of only a handful, if that, who graduated their seniors in person, as an entire class at a local venue.

Our district and community have accomplished some amazing things during this challenging year that many other places were unable to do. I am so proud of how far we have come and the perseverance of all of our students, staff and families. I am filled with hope and gratitude as we enter the Summer months. Thank you to each of you for your support and participation this year. The communities of Black Diamond and Enumclaw are something to be admired and grateful for.

Shaun V. Carey