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Bellingham Public Schools with ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award

Reston, VA – October 12, 2025 – The Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) proudly announces that **Bellingham Public Schools (WA)**, has earned the prestigious **Meritorious Budget Award (MBA)** for the fiscal year 2025–2026. This national recognition celebrates the district's commitment to clear, transparent, and high-quality budget presentation, reinforcing its dedication to responsible financial stewardship.

ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award program sets the standard for excellence in school budget development and communication. Designed to help school business professionals enhance their financial planning skills, the program ensures that district budgets are not only comprehensive but also accessible and informative for stakeholders.

To achieve this distinction, school districts submit their budget documents for a rigorous peer review process conducted by experienced school finance professionals. Each submission is carefully evaluated against ASBO International's MBA Criteria Checklist, and districts receive valuable feedback to refine and strengthen their budget presentations.

"An effective school budget is more than just numbers—it's a vital tool for building trust and engaging the community," said Jim Rowan, CAE, SFO, Executive Director of ASBO International. "The Meritorious Budget Award recognizes districts like Bellingham Public Schools that prioritize financial clarity and accountability. We commend their dedication to upholding nationally recognized budget presentation standards."

School districts that meet the program's high standards receive the Meritorious Budget Award distinction, showcasing their leadership in financial transparency and best practices.

ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award is proudly sponsored by Strategic Partner, Voya.

For more information about ASBO International's Meritorious Budget Award program, visit asbointl.org/MBA.

About ASBO International

Established in 1910, the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) is a dynamic nonprofit organization that unites, through its members and affiliates, a global network of approximately 30,000 school business professionals. ASBO International empowers its members with cutting-edge programs, resources, and connections designed to set the standard for excellence in school business management. At the heart of ASBO's mission is a commitment to success—its members play a vital role in shaping education by expertly managing resources that directly impact school systems. Learn more at asbointl.org.

About Voya®

Voya (NYSE: VOYA) is a leading health, wealth and investment company with approximately 9,000 employees who are focused on achieving Voya's aspirational vision: "Clearing your path to financial confidence and a more fulfilling life." Through products, solutions and technologies, Voya helps its 15.2 million individual, workplace and institutional clients become well planned, well invested and well protected. Benefit focus, a Voya company and a leading benefits administration provider, extends the reach of Voya's workplace benefits and savings offerings by engaging directly with over 12 million employees in the U.S. Certified as a "Great Place to Work" by the Great Place to Work® Institute, Voya is purpose-driven and committed to conducting business in a way that is economically, ethically, socially and environmentally responsible. Voya has earned recognition as: one of the World's Most Ethical Companies® by Ethisphere; a member of the Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index; and a "Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion" on the Disability Equality Index. For more information, visit voya.com. Follow Voya on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/voyacorp), [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/voya) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/voyacorp).

