FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Jeff Snell, Executive Director
Washington Association of School Administrators
360.489.3651
jsnell@wasa-oly.org
www.wasa-oly.org



PHOTO: Dr. Scott Mauk

Chimacum Superintendent Dr. Scott Mauk Named Washington State Superintendent of the Year

Student growth, inclusion, and community connection define Mauk's leadership

SPOKANE — Nov. 20, 2026 — The Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) has named Dr. Scott Mauk, superintendent of Chimacum School District, as the 2027 Washington State Superintendent of the Year. The announcement was made during WASA's Fall Superintendent Component Meeting, in conjunction with the WSSDA Annual Conference in Spokane.

The annual award recognizes exemplary leadership among Washington's superintendents and honors those who demonstrate outstanding service, vision, and commitment to public education. In conjunction with the award, Washington's Superintendent of the Year will receive a $1,000 contribution from D.A. Davidson & Company to support an educational program of their choice. This year, the funds will benefit the Community Wellness Project, an organization dedicated to supporting student and family well-being through school garden programs, farm-to-school breakfast and lunch initiatives, and efforts that promote healthier school communities.

“What stands out about Scott is not only his deep commitment to the students and families of Chimacum, but also the thoughtfulness and humility he brings to leadership,” said WASA Executive Director Jeff Snell. “Scott is constantly looking for opportunities to learn, connect people, and help other leaders grow. He understands that our collective success depends on what we can accomplish together. He reminds us that meaningful leadership is about more than the work happening in our own districts; it is about strengthening the communities and relationships that make public education possible.”

Mauk has served as superintendent of Chimacum School District since July 2021. The rural district serves approximately 700 students in preschool through grade 12 in East Jefferson County. His leadership centers on the district’s purpose of being “a caring community for courageous learners” and its promise that every student is known by name, strength, and need.

"I am so proud of the work we have done in Chimacum serving students and families. We aspire to be the heart center of a proud and vibrant community, and we have made an amazing impact," said Mauk.

"I see public schools as the most important institution in a democracy. I am thrilled to represent small district leaders doing impactful work all over our state. And I am deeply humbled to be lifted up hopefully as an inspiration by my peers."

Through accessible communication, school visits open to the public, and partnerships, Mauk has brought families and community members closer to the work happening in classrooms. Under his leadership, Chimacum has expanded tuition-free preschool and Transition to Kindergarten through community partnerships, strengthening kindergarten readiness. The district has also improved graduation rates and dual-credit participation while increasing opportunities for students with disabilities to learn alongside their peers through shared leadership, staff collaboration, and targeted professional learning.

Strong community connections have helped support this progress. By welcoming families and community members into schools, Chimacum strengthens connections and builds a shared commitment to student success. These partnerships have expanded career-connected learning in construction trades and health sciences, along with opportunities in music, athletics, and outdoor learning.

Mauk’s approach to leadership emphasizes open communication, community engagement, and a collaborative partnership with the school board. By encouraging ongoing learning, using student data to guide decisions, and aligning goals with resources, he has helped build a shared commitment to continuous improvement. Recognition of both his leadership and the district’s work reflects the collective efforts of the board, staff, families, and community partners to strengthen Chimacum’s schools.

His emphasis on communication earned him recognition as a 2025–26 Superintendent to Watch by the National School Public Relations Association. Chimacum’s Key Communicator newsletter was also named Best in Category for Email Newsletter among Washington school districts under 10,000 students by the Washington School Public Relations Association in 2025

Mauk has spent most of his career in alternative education and rural schools. He started in public education as a social studies teacher and has served in special education, school leadership, athletics, and district administration. Before joining Chimacum, he was a K-12 principal in Edmonds and served as an assistant principal and director of special programs in South Whidbey. He holds a doctorate and superintendent certification from Seattle Pacific University, a master’s in teaching from The Evergreen State College, and a bachelor’s degree from Santa Clara University.

Beyond Chimacum, Mauk leads the Rural Education Center of Washington and OESD 114’s Superintendent Advisory Council, represents small districts within WASA, and serves on OSPI’s Small LEA Advisory Committee. He also contributes to Jefferson County’s economic development and behavioral health councils. Together, these roles reflect his commitment to strengthening education and connecting schools with the broader needs of their communities.

As the state's Superintendent of the Year, Mauk will be a candidate for the 2027 American Association of School Administrators (AASA) National Superintendent of the Year Award. The national award will be announced in February during the AASA National Conference on Education in Atlanta.

Recent recipients of the WASA Superintendent of the Year Award include:

2026: Michelle Whitney, Pasco SD
2025: Ron Banner, Clover Park SD
2024: Laurie Dent, Sumner-Bonney Lake SD
2023: Adam Swinyard, Spokane SD
2022: Susan Enfield, Highline SD
2021: Michelle Reid, Northshore SD (also named National Superintendent of the Year)

A complete list of Washington Superintendent of the Year recipients is available online

About the Washington Association of School Administrators

WASA (www.wasa-oly.org) is a non-profit organization committed to the development of quality education through professional leadership. Members benefit from a supportive community of professional leaders working to provide insightful, valuable training, support, and resources. WASA also strives to sustain a positive impact on legislative and community leaders. Membership is open to education administrators in Washington state.

-30-