



2010 STATE RECOGNITION AWARDS

Program Award

For Contributing to a Significant and Positive Impact on Student Learning

West Valley ASSIST Program

(Autism School Support for Inclusion and Systematic Teaching)

Millwood Early Childhood Education Center

West Valley School District, Spokane

The West Valley Autism School Support for Inclusion and Systematic Teaching (ASSIST) program provides early intervention services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The purpose of this program is to provide early intervention with the goal of full inclusion by the time students enter elementary school. The caring and highly skilled staff members of ASSIST serve students through an extended day format where the students are included with their peers in an early learning environment.

ASSIST has created a network that fosters additional support for parents and teachers. The program network continues to make a tremendous impact on students both within and outside of the West Valley School District. Charissa Cardwell, a board member of the Spokane Chapter of the Autism Society of Washington and a parent of a student involved in ASSIST states, "This program taught my son a wide variety of skills that he uses, and will continue to use throughout his life. It gave him a core of knowledge that he was lacking, and most importantly the confidence to complete everyday tasks and activities as he moves into general education schooling." ASSIST is helping these students learn and the teachers feel supported and capable. This program is a positive influence and continues to be supported by all involved.