



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

April 17, 2015

Dear Educator:

I want to thank you for all the hard work you do every day on behalf of Washington's schoolchildren. As your governor, I am committed to supporting you in this vital task.

One area I have focused on as governor is boosting STEM education. As the school year draws to a close, I wanted to let you know about a fun, educational gaming challenge geared towards having students across the state solve 250,000 word problems in just one school week.

The Center for Game Science at the University of Washington has taken all the feedback from the previous statewide Algebra Challenge and created an entirely new program for this year's challenge. The Washington State Algebra Challenge is scheduled for April 27 - May 1 when the UW Center for Game Science will track the number of equations solved through their school-adapted version of Riddle Books.

Riddle Books is intended to be complementary and supplemental to the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics adopted in Washington and other states, in addition to reinforcing reading through the use of word problems.

Educators who sign up their classrooms for the second statewide Algebra Challenge will receive all necessary teacher tools and support resources. The UW Center for Game Science has produced an innovative analytical tool called the Teacher Portal that enables educators to view their students' learning progress as well as provide feedback for the most effective strategies for reaching each student.

I believe that, together, our K-12 Washington State classrooms can achieve the goal of solving 250,000 word problems in one week. Please consider encouraging your students to participate with two hours of gameplay between April 27th and May 1st. To sign up for the challenge, please visit wa.algebrachallenge.org. It only takes a minute! Registration closes April 26th.

Again, thank you for your tireless work on behalf of Washington students.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee
Governor

