

OPINION

State stats show South Kitsap schools need to change

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The Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction recently posted last year's report cards for all schools. Those measures are to the public by visiting [washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us](https://www.washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us) (<https://www.washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>).

The South Kitsap School District's marks for math and language arts are every parent's nightmare. Only 51% of our children passed math standards and only 63% passed language arts standards, yet 77% graduated within four years. Comparison of school districts near us reveal that we are nearly last in our number of graduates, with only Bremerton below us, at 60%.

Why are kids with failing scores graduating?

And why are 20% of our school-age children not attending South Kitsap schools?

Bainbridge scores indicate that their kids are on a path to be the leaders, scientists, doctors and lawyers, while our kids will not have those opportunities nor would many pass the apprenticeship exam at PSNS.

While there is much hope on the horizon with our new SKSD superintendent, new thinking is needed on the school board.

The smartest choice for Board Director seat No. 5 is Jeff Daily. Jeff is not an elitist who is focused just on those kids headed for college. He believes in using our resources to improve the opportunities of all our children.

Lucinda Tharp, Port Orchard

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