

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

May 24, 2013

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 important work.

One area I have focused on as governor is boosting STEM education. And, as the school year wraps up, I wanted to let you know about a fun, educational gaming challenge geared toward having students across the state solve 250,000 algebra equations in just one week.

The Center for Game Science at the University of Washington has partnered with the Technology Alliance, a statewide not-for-profit organization, and the Broadband office in the Washington State Department of Commerce to develop a special online version of the popular math learning game, DragonBox, and provide over \$10,000 worth of prizes. The Washington State Algebra Challenge is scheduled for June 3rd – 7th when the UW Center for Game Science will track the number of equations solved through their school-adapted version of the algebra game.

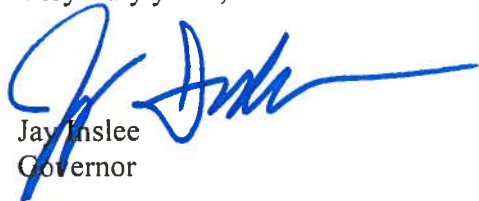
This new resource is designed to adapt to each unique learner to maximize learning by every student. It is intended to be supplemental and complementary to the new Common Core State Standards for Mathematics being adopted in Washington and 44 other states.

Educators who sign up their classrooms for the 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 assisting each student. After the challenge, educators will receive extended access to DragonBox and the Teacher Tools and portal for use in the 2013-14 school year.

I believe that, together, our K-12 Washington State classrooms can achieve the goal of solving 250,000 algebra equations in one week. Please consider providing and encouraging your students to participate with two hours of gameplay between June 3rd and June 7th. To sign up for the challenge, which takes less than a minute, please visit www.AlgebraChallenge.org. Registration closes June 2nd.

Thanks for your tireless work.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee
Governor

