



# News Release

From Seattle Public Schools

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## Cooper Elementary School receives \$53,000 grant for *The E.A.R.T.H. Project*

Cooper Elementary School is one of five schools in Washington State to be awarded a \$53,000 grant. Of that amount, \$26,500 will come from the state and there will be an in-kind match of services from the three partner organizations of Northwest Environmental Education Council, Nature Consortium and Camp Long. The E.A.R.T.H. Project is a new magnet environmental focus at Cooper Elementary School. It includes the planning and planting of an on-site habitat by students as well as integration of art and technology linked to the environmental projects teachers are developing. E.A.R.T.H. stands for **E**nviromental, **A**rts, **R**espect, **T**echnology for the **w**Hole child.

The on-site habitat, located on the south end of the school, will include an outdoor classroom where students will be able to do hands-on lessons about the Northwest environment. The arts component will partner the Nature Consortium with Youngstown Cultural Center in creating art works exploring the environment and its importance. Rob Silver, Cooper Elementary School's technology teacher, will link student learning and use of technology to the various environmental projects.

Cathy Rutherford, Cooper Elementary School Principal, said, "We are very pleased to add this new program to the exciting changes now taking place here at Cooper. It will provide many opportunities for students to apply the skills they are learning in other subject areas. More fundamentally, I believe it will help our children enjoy and, as a consequence, become more motivated and engaged in their learning."

The grant will also provide professional development for Cooper teachers. They will learn about the abundant flora and fauna in the connecting greenbelt and also how to integrate the environmental education curriculum with the National Science Foundation science kits currently in use. Next year forestry and stewardship projects in the greenbelt will support experiential science curricula for all grades, including wildlife studies.

This ongoing school year project offers media numerous opportunities to document the students' environmental work and learning. For information on possible story opportunities, please contact David Tucker, Media Relations, at (206) 252-0203.

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