

Tulalip Tribal School: Supporting Every Child Through Relationships, Stability, and Growth

As we continue designing Tulalip Tribal School, we want to share one of the core ideas shaping how the school will work every day.

At Tulalip, we believe learning begins with belonging. When children feel safe, known, and connected — to caring adults, to culture, and to community — they are better able to learn, grow, and thrive.

This approach is called **ARC: Attachment, Regulation, and Competency**.

It isn't a program we add on. It's a way of designing the entire school so that students are supported as whole people.

Attachment: Students feel safe and belong

At Tulalip, relationships come first. We believe adults create the environment in which children learn. When students trust their teachers, see their culture reflected in the school, and know they belong even when they struggle, they are more open to learning. Attachment means building strong connections — with adults, with family, and with Tulalip identity.

Regulation: Students learn to steady themselves and recover from stress

Instead of asking "What's wrong with this child?" we ask, "What support does this child need to feel ready to learn?"

We understand that behavior is often communication. Our goal is to help students recognize emotions, calm their bodies, and develop resilience so they can stay engaged in school and in relationships.

Competency: Students grow skills, confidence, and agency

Our goal is not just calm students — but capable students. Tulalip students will learn how to solve problems, repair harm, work with others, and succeed academically. We want every student to see themselves as strong, capable learners with a future full of possibility.

ARC shapes how the whole school operates. You will see it in classroom routines, discipline practices, staff training, family partnerships, and the cultural grounding of the school.

Tulalip Tribal School is being designed so that students do not have to leave their identity at the door to succeed. Instead, their identity, relationships, and culture become the foundation for learning.

In the coming weeks, we'll share more about other key elements of the school — from language and culture to teaching practices and family partnerships. Each piece fits together to create a school that reflects Tulalip values and supports every child's growth.

We're grateful for the community's guidance as we build this school together.