



## Fulfilling Our Ancestors' Dreams



### BUILDING MOMENTUM — MOVING TO ACTION

The Tulalip Academy of Excellence continues to make incredible progress as our planning transitions from vision to reality. Over the past several months, families, educators, Tribal leaders, and community partners have worked side by side to shape a school grounded in Tulalip culture, strong relationships, and meaningful learning. This month marked several critical milestones toward that goal:

**State Support Secured:** The Tulalip Tribes secured \$2.05 million in Washington State funding to support the acquisition of the school property.

**Application Review:** The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has completed approximately 75% of its review of our school startup application, and collaborative discussions continue toward final approval.

**Facilities Planning:** We completed modernization estimates for the Quil Ceda Tulalip Elementary (QCTE) campus and are finalizing a request for \$6–12 million in State modernization support. These improvements will ensure safe, healthy, and modern learning spaces while preserving the school's long-term vision.

**Leadership Vision:** Interviews were conducted with outstanding Native educational leaders. We are actively developing criteria to secure leaders who will honor Tulalip heritage, build deep connections with families, and foster a healthy, healing environment where students feel safe and ready to learn.





# What Matters Most Right Now

To maintain this momentum, several foundational pieces must come together. Tribal Council action will be needed in the coming months to:

- Approve the TAE school budget.
- Authorize the hiring of our inaugural school leader.
- Establish a school board and a formal structure to receive grant funds.
- Finalize the purchase of the QCTE property from the Marysville School District.

**The Bottom Line:** This is a moment of true opportunity. Interest is growing, partnerships are forming, and funding pathways are opening. The work ahead is focused entirely on ensuring the right foundations are in place so we are ready to act.

— The TAE Planning Team





# What Will Learning Look Like at Tulalip?

## **LEARNING BY DOING, BEING, AND EXPLORING**

At the Tulalip Academy of Excellence, education will look and feel entirely different from a traditional classroom. Students won't just sit and listen, they will actively engage with the world around them. Last month, we shared how we support student growth through Whole-Child Development (Attachment, Regulation, and Competency). This month, we look more closely at how that connects to daily learning.

## **LEARNING WITH HANDS AND MIND**

Reading, writing, math, science, and history remain essential foundations, but students will actively use these skills rather than simply memorizing facts. Through hands-on projects, they will build, create, design, and solve real-world problems. Learning becomes purposeful and active.

## **LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

Education will not be limited to four walls. The land, water, and seasons are also teachers. Students will spend significant time outdoors studying the local ecosystem, participating in community events, and learning directly from elders and traditional knowledge-holders.

## **LEARNING THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS**

Students learn best when they feel safe, respected, and deeply known by caring adults. Tulalip Academy places relationships at the center of its design. We focus on helping students develop emotional regulation, personal confidence, and a profound sense of belonging alongside their academic growth.

## **LEARNING THAT CONNECTS TO IDENTITY**

Lessons will be woven with Tulalip language, culture, stories, and history. By understanding who they are and where they come from, students develop a secure cultural identity. Instead of just asking, "What do I need to know for the test?" our students will ask, "Why does this matter, and how can I use it to contribute to my community?"

# What This Means for Our Graduates

We are not just preparing students to pass tests; we are preparing them for life.

Students will leave Tulalip Academy as:

- Confident learners secure in their identity and culture.
- Thoughtful problem-solvers ready to think critically and collaborate.
- Strong community members equipped to lead.

At Tulalip, students won't just absorb information. They will learn how to live, learn, and lead.

*Learning by doing. Learning by being. Learning by exploring.*



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