



From Vision to Momentum



WHY THIS MATTERS

The vision for the Tulalip Academy of Excellence is becoming real. What began as an idea is now turning into visible, tangible progress. Early successes are building momentum and helping us move from imagining a school to planning and building one together with the goal of opening in September 2027.

Momentum is building

- The State budget includes a \$2 million allocation for land acquisition. This is an important step forward. It reflects confidence in the Tulalip Academy of Excellence and helps move the project from planning into action with partners and decision-makers.
 - The OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) review process is well underway and has passed the halfway point.
 - Seven sections of application approved
 - Three sections require more discussion
 - All 19 sections will continue to be reviewed over the coming months
 - Community members who want to participate in the ongoing review are welcome. Please get in touch with Tina Brown at jubrown@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov.
 - Tulalip is currently completing remodeling cost estimates for QCTE. The planned request—approximately \$7 million for critical upgrades, including the kitchen, roof, boiler, and other improvements—will be submitted to the legislature for consideration during the 2027 session.
- All of these signals that the Tulalip Academy of Excellence is being taken seriously and is continuing to move forward.





Laying the foundation

Behind the scenes, important groundwork is being laid.

- A new Tulalip Academy of Excellence webpage is now live. It brings together key parts of the vision, including one-page summaries that outline what families can expect—such as outdoor learning and a curriculum rooted in Tulalip culture.
- The first TAE newsletter has been printed, with 350 copies prepared

for General Council. In the future, the goal is to share updates every few weeks to create a steady rhythm of communication and keep the community informed and connected.

- Guiding Principles are being developed based on Tulalip values and shaped by conversations with educators, community members, and the Elder Council.
- The principal leadership profile continues to take shape through interviews, research, and community input. This work is helping clarify not just what the school will offer, but the kind of leadership needed to bring the vision to life.

Bottom line

We are moving from planning to building, creating a school that feels real, shared, and rooted in Tulalip values.



HOW TULALIP ACADEMY WILL SUPPORT EVERY CHILD

As we continue to design the Tulalip Academy of Excellence, we want to share one of the core ideas guiding the school's day-to-day operations. At Tulalip, 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.

A SCHOOL DESIGNED FOR THE WHOLE CHILD

This approach is known as **ARC** (Attachment, Regulation, and Competency). ARC is not a program added on top of learning. It is a way of designing the entire school so students are supported as whole people, emotionally, culturally, and academically.



ATTACHMENT

feeling safe, and belonging

Adults create the conditions for learning. 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 and growth. Attachment means strong connections: With caring adults, family, and Tulalip identity and community.



REGULATION

how to steady themselves

Instead of asking, "What's wrong with this child?" we ask, "What does this child need to be ready to learn?" We understand that behavior is often communication.

We aim to help students:

- Recognize their emotions
- Calm their bodies
- Recover from stress
- Stay engaged in learning and relationships



COMPETENCY

building skills and confidence

Our goal is not just calm students, but capable students. At Tulalip Academy, students will learn how to:

- Solve problems
- Work together
- Repair harm
- Succeed academically

We want every child to see themselves as strong, capable learners with a future full of possibilities.

WHAT THIS MEANS

ARC will shape how the entire school operates, including:

- Classroom routines
- Discipline and behavior practices
- Staff training
- Family partnerships
- Cultural grounding throughout the school

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

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming weeks, we will continue sharing more about:

- Language and culture
- Teaching practices
- Family partnerships
- Student support systems

Each piece fits together to create a school that reflects Tulalip values and supports every child's growth.



LEARN MORE AT:

[tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/Education/
TulalipAcademyOfExcellence](http://tulaliptribes-nsn.gov/Education/TulalipAcademyOfExcellence)

