

# TULALIP TRIBES

## *Tulalip Academy of Excellence*

---

## Draft Application November 2025

### **Temporary Name: Tulalip Academy of Excellence**

Tulalip Tribes is working toward opening our own Tulalip Academy Tribal School in 2027. We are doing so under Washington Law which provides for State-Tribal Education Compacts, known as STEC schools. Tulalip would be the 9<sup>th</sup> tribal school in Washington. We are negotiating with Marysville School District for the purchase of the Marysville-Tulalip campus (4 schools and a gym) located on 27<sup>th</sup> Street on the Tulalip Reservation. Our analysis shows that the state will provide \$5-6M per year (2/3 of the operating cost); Tulalip's cost will be \$2.5-3M. Tulalip has been setting aside funds for this purpose for many years. This application DRAFT was built on the basis of extensive community input in 2024 and will be reviewed extensively before submitting a first draft in November of 2025 and finalizing our application in November 2026. We are closer than ever to *realizing our ancestors' dreams*.

### **Tulalip Education History**

- 1857:** The Tulalip Mission School opens, operated by Catholic missionaries to educate Native children.
- 1905:** The federal government establishes the Tulalip Boarding School on the reservation, replacing the mission school.
- 1932:** The Tulalip Boarding School closes; students are sent to Chemawa Indian School in Oregon.
- 1936:** The Tulalip Tribes form their own governing body gaining greater control over tribal affairs.
- 1960:** Tulalip Elementary School is built by Marysville School District to provide education to Native children.
- 1997:** Quil Ceda Elementary School opens, serving as a public elementary school on Tulalip Reservation.
- 2008:** The Marysville School District opens Heritage High School to serve Tulalip students.
- 2015:** Betty J. Taylor Early Learning moves into a new facility near the retired Tulalip Elementary campus.
- 2027:** Tulalip Tribes plans to open our own elementary school with an indigenous-focused education model.



## **School Purposes** - Honoring our cultural knowledge ... *building our ancestors' dream.*

### Improve Student Learning

We are committed to academic excellence by providing rigorous instruction, personalized supports, and culturally relevant learning opportunities. Our goal is to ensure every student has the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in school and beyond.

### Outdoor Education

Learning extends beyond the classroom. Through outdoor education, students connect with nature, develop problem-solving and teamwork skills, and strengthen their understanding of stewardship and responsibility for the environment.

### Community Values

Our school reflects the values of the community we serve. We build strong partnerships with families and tribal leaders, honor cultural heritage, and foster a sense of belonging and shared responsibility for student success.

### Social-Emotional Healing and Resiliency Through Play

Play is powerful. We intentionally create spaces where students can heal, grow, and build resilience through play-based experiences. These opportunities strengthen social-emotional skills, restore balance, and promote well-being for every child.

## **Application details**

### [Assurances](#)

#### [I - Vision/Mission](#)

#### [II - School Programs](#)

#### [III - Curriculum](#)

#### [IV - Student Performance](#)

#### [V - Assessment](#)

#### [VI - High School](#)

#### [VII - Calendar](#)

#### [VIII - Supplemental Programs](#)

#### [IX Special Populations](#)

#### [X - Discipline handbook](#)

#### [XI - Community Engagement](#)

#### [XII - Governance](#)

#### [XIII - Personnel Plan](#)

#### [XIV - Facilities Plan line](#)

#### [XV - Transportation Plan](#)

#### [XVI - Financial Plan](#)

#### [XVII - Background checks](#)

#### [XVIII - Safety Plan](#)

#### [XIX - Checklist of Funding Sources](#)