



MY FUTURE NOW

Preparing Students for Career & College

The journey to high school graduation is a winding road, and each student's experience is unique. Earning a high school diploma is a launching point. We want every student to leave Tacoma Public Schools with knowledge, skills and confidence.

We offer opportunities to start formal learning as soon as possible – starting at 3 years old for some – because early learning builds a strong foundation.

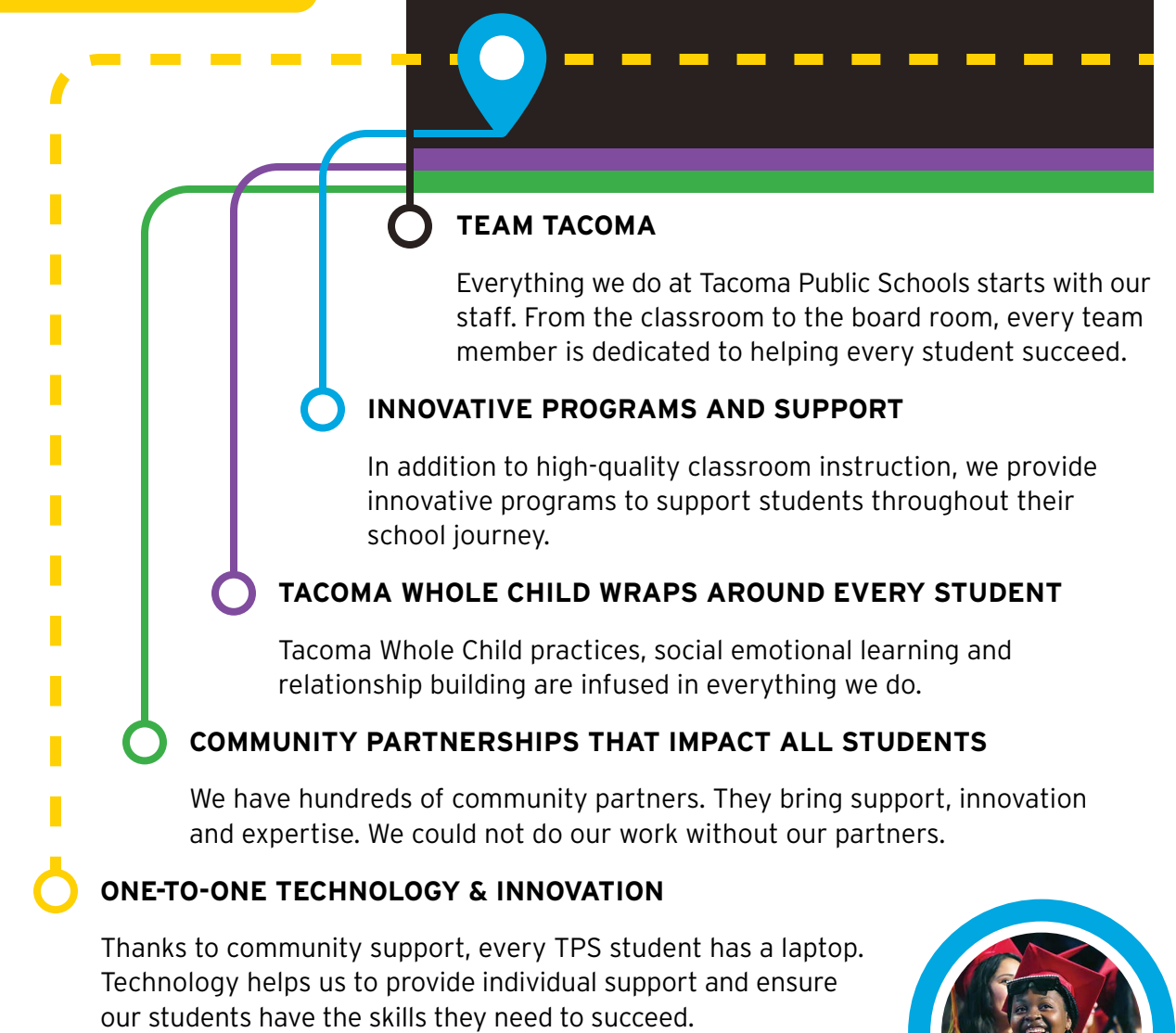
Throughout their education, TPS students benefit from whole-child support, including

social-emotional learning, mental health resources and access to nutritious meals. Athletics and extracurricular activities help students develop teamwork and leadership skills, while Career and Technical Education programs provide hands-on experience in high-demand fields.

Students can challenge themselves with rigorous coursework, earn dual college credits and gain real-world skills through paid work experiences. Community partnerships further support student success, ensuring each learner has the tools they need to reach their goals.

Last year, we celebrated a record on-time graduation rate of 91.7%. That's a testament to the work our caring, trusted and committed Team Tacoma does every day.

Road Map Key:



Grade-Level Field Trips

All students in kindergarten through eighth grade participate in grade-level field trips. Students get exposed to environments and career paths they may not have encountered otherwise. Much of the funding for trips is thanks to voter-approved initiative Tacoma Creates.

AVID at All Middle Schools

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) supports students with strategies like focused note-taking, planning, collaborative study groups and activities for accelerated learning.

Beyond the Bell & Club B

Tacoma Public Schools and community partners offer Beyond the Bell activities for students in grades K-5 and Club B activities for students in grades 6-8.

Online Learning Options

Tacoma Online is a K-12 school open to all TPS students. Tacoma Flex is a program in which students can take up to two courses a day online, while continuing the remainder of their classes in person. This starts in 6th grade.

High School & Beyond Planning

Planning for life after high school starts early. Beginning in middle school, students gain access to SchoolLinks, an online platform where they can explore careers, colleges and scholarships. By graduation, students have developed a unique High School and Beyond Plan.

Career & Technical Education

From culinary to marketing, healthcare, robotics, welding and much more, students have access to a range of hands-on, career-oriented classes. All high-school CTE courses offer dual college credit.

Dual College Credit

Dual credit programs allow students to take college-level courses in high school. Students may be eligible for college credit based on their test scores and by taking college-level classes either at their high school or at colleges and universities.

Paid Work Experiences

Paid work experiences help students gain valuable know-how and perspective. Our goal is for every student to have at least one paid work experience during high school. Through the Jobs 253 program, students work 40+ hours with a business or community partner, earning pay and a high school credit.

Verified Acceptance into a Next Institution

Every senior is required to provide a Verified Acceptance into a Next Institution (VANI). A VANI can be one of many different pathways – four-year university, community/technical college, apprenticeship or military service.

Industry-Recognized Credentials

The Class of 2024 earned 1,361 Industry Recognized Credentials – certifications that open doors to in-demand careers and demonstrate students' readiness for the workforce.

High School Graduation

We want every student to graduate and be prepared to successfully take their next step. Since 2014, Tacoma Public Schools has consistently outperformed the state average graduation rate – a reflection of our community's unwavering commitment to student success.

Free College Entrance Exams

All students who want to take college entrance exams can do so at no cost and during the school day.

Resources for Families

Strong partnerships between families and schools create the best learning environments for students. We are committed to providing resources that make it easier for families to stay connected and support their child.

ParentVUE

Families can use this online tool to track student progress, schedules, grades and attendance, and communicate with teachers.

Beyond the Bell & Club B

Elementary and middle school after-school athletics and activities operate on a pay-what-you-can model, ensuring every student has access to safe, enriching experiences while easing financial stress for families.

Mental Health Resources

Our school teams offer guidance and support, but sometimes families need more. We work with a number of community partners who can offer mental health support.

Translators

All schools and district offices have access to translators. This can be planned or through LanguageLine for immediate support.

Help for Students Experiencing Homelessness

District liaisons can assist families and students who need support, ensuring the student's education remains on track.

Communication

Communication is critical at both the school and district level. Through our website, social media, electronic flyers, calls, emails, text and face-to-face interactions, we strive to keep all families informed.

My Future Now

Visit our My Future Now website to find more information and resources for career and college planning.



LEARN MORE

