SHORELINE SCHOOL DISTRICT

RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 30TH AS EVERY CHILD MATTERS DAY OR "ORANGE SHIRT DAY"

A PROCLAMATION of the Shoreline School District #412, King County, Shoreline, Washington

WHEREAS, beginning in the early 1800s and lasting well into the 20th century, hundreds of thousands of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children were removed from their families and communities and placed in more than 500 government- and church-run Indian boarding schools, where many endured the loss of culture, language, traditions, and identity, and where many children never returned home; and

WHEREAS, these schools caused intergenerational trauma that continues to affect Indigenous peoples, families, and communities today, while Indigenous nations, families, and cultures continue to demonstrate resilience, strength, and survival; and

WHEREAS, Orange Shirt Day began in 2013 to honor survivors of residential and boarding schools, remember the children who never came home, and recognize the enduring impacts of these institutions; and

WHEREAS, the wearing of an orange shirt symbolizes the experience of Phyllis Webstad, whose orange shirt was taken from her on her first day at a residential school, and stands as a powerful reminder that every child matters; and

WHEREAS, September 30 is recognized across Indigenous communities as Every Child Matters Day, a time to reflect on the truths of U.S. and Canadian boarding school histories, honor survivors, and commit to healing, reconciliation, and education; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Shoreline School District is to provide a collaborative learning community in which all students are engaged, respected, and supported, and where diversity is recognized as a source of strength; and

WHEREAS, consistent with School Board Policy 0150 on Race and Equity, the Anti-Racism Resolution, and the Ethnic Studies Resolution, the District affirms its responsibility to create respectful and relevant learning environments that ensure all students, and that Native students in particular, feel fully seen, honored, and supported within our schools, and to advance anti-racist practices so that race is no longer a predictor of student success; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline School District acknowledges that Indigenous boarding schools were rooted in systemic racism, and that racism in its various forms—including interpersonal, institutional, and structural—continues to cause harm and racial trauma for Indigenous students, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Shoreline School District is committed to truth and reconciliation by fostering inclusive, safe, and equitable learning environments for all students, and by teaching authentic Indigenous histories and perspectives, centering curriculum created in partnership with Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the District will continue to collaborate with Tribes and Indigenous-led organizations to guide this work in culturally responsive and respectful ways and commits to listening to Indigenous students and families to guide ongoing efforts toward healing, equity, and belonging; and

WHEREAS, Shoreline School District acknowledges and honors the Indigenous students and families who are part of our schools and community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Shoreline School District hereby declares September 30 of each year as Every Child Matters Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the District will support education efforts for students, staff, and families on the effects of Indian Boarding Schools, and designate September 30 as Every Child Matters Day or "Orange Shirt Day" in remembrance and tribute to the children who never came home, the survivors of Indian Boarding Schools, and their families both in our community and in our region.

PROCLAIMED this 9th day of September, 2025.

Susana Reyes

Dr. Susana Reyes, Superintendent
Shoreline School District