TAHOMA together

SUMMER 2026

Community Update from the Tahoma School District

Our students accomplished so many incredible things during the 2025-26 school year! Although we couldn't fit every single celebration on a single flyer, here are some of the highlights.

In March, Tahoma was one of only 25 school districts in the state that received the inaugural State Superintendent's Award for Educational Excellence (SSAEE) for Academic Achievement. This prestigious honor, awarded by State Superintendent Chris Reykdal, recognizes Tahoma as one of the top districts in Washington for student outcomes and academic success based on eleven different measures. In addition to proficiency and growth in literacy and math, they also looked at how ready our youngest learners are when they enter kindergarten, our 8th graders' success in algebra, and how many of our high schoolers are participating in dual-credit opportunities.

Four of our schools were individually recognized by the Washington State Board of Education this spring for academic progress. Glacier Park Elementary and Maple View Middle were honored for their multilingual students' growth, Cedar River and Lake Wilderness elementaries were awarded for their Hispanic/Latino students' growth, and Lake Wilderness was honored for gains on the Washington School Improvement Framework. Only 16% of schools across the state received these honors.

Our students also excelled beyond the classroom in their extracurricular activities. We had multiple top-tier teams at Tahoma High School: Our cheerleaders were named world champions, boys' wrestling won their third straight state title, Bear Metal Robotics placed 2nd in the world among 600 robotics teams, and We The People (a civics-based activity) placed 7th in the nation. The Bears also launched a brand-new official sport: flag football!

THS' theatre program also continued to shine, presenting two sold-out musicals: The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Water for Elephants. More than 100 Maple View and Summit Trail students participated in our two middle school productions, including Matilda: The Musical. Elsewhere in the arts, multiple THS and middle school musicians performed at state competitions and hundreds of students of all ages displayed their artwork at the Tahoma Art Show.

Finally, a select few Tahoma students won individual awards this school year. Rock Creek first grader Navya Gupta earned 1st place for her grade at WA State Science & Engineering Fair, Summit Trail eighth grader Victoria Osadchuk won US Composting Council's International Compost Awareness Week Bookmark Design Contest, and Maple View sixth grader Manal Dar won the World Affairs of Seattle essay contest.

Congratulations to all of our talented and hard-working students! We can't wait to see what you accomplish next school year.





Strategic Plan Year 1 Update

In the interest of furthering our district vision of Quality Learning, in Every Classroom, Every Day for Every Child, this fall, we kicked off our 5-year strategic plan, Tahoma Together, which outlines district-wide focus areas for growth and is used as a guiding document for our work throughout the year. The details of our plan were shaped by community input, district data, and staff feedback. Tahoma's strategic plan has three priority areas: Strong Academic Programs, Student Well-Being, and Safety & Operational Excellence.

There is much to celebrate related to Strong Academic Programs, such as the implementation of new curricula in a myriad of subjects and grade levels. These include, but are not limited to, elementary-level English Language Arts, Washington State History, and Advanced Placement Statistics. In addition to the new materials, our staff spent hours engaged in training to learn how to best teach these new curricula. We're excited about the learning opportunities ahead for our students as a result of the effort put in by our teachers, principals, teaching and learning team, operations team, technology team, and many others to ensure the curriculum adoptions were successful.

This school year our Student Well-Being focus included a continued focus on developing a system of tiered supports for student behavior, social/emotional and attendance needs. Our Student Services team also made strides in addressing student mental health by hiring our first district-wide social worker. Additionally, we began using new social-emotional screeners (DESSA and My-SAEBRS) at some of our schools, which gives staff another tool to identify and address student social-emotional needs.

As part of our Safety and Operational Excellence efforts, we continued our commitment to safety by installing badge readers at every portable elementary classroom in the district, securing all external buildings from unapproved entry. Additionally, the district Capital Facilities Committee, composed of both community and staff members, recommended a 25-year facilities plan to the Tahoma School Board in June, allowing current and future Tahoma stakeholders to make crucial decisions about district facilities. We also placed a larger emphasis on communications this school year. Our communications team began sharing more information on social media about student and staff accomplishments, and we launched a new e-newsletter explicitly for community members who don't have students in the district, providing greater access to information about what's happening in our schools.

You can read more about our 5-Year Strategic Plan and see the Objectives Tracker by visiting our website at www.tahomasd.us/about/strategicplan-2025-30.



2025-26 Budget Update

Tahoma School District is finalizing its 2026-27 budget, with adoption scheduled for a School Board vote in July. Throughout the year, the Board reviewed key factors influencing the budget, including declining enrollment trends (mirroring statewide enrollment declines), legislative decisions that negatively impacted school funding, increased costs of doing business and levy collection projections.

Like many districts across Washington, Tahoma is navigating a constrained financial environment. Looking ahead to next school year, a combination of rising, non-controllable costs and shifting revenues will require us to carefully consider how to reduce spending without compromising the quality of our educational programs.

Our staff will work together to tackle these challenges and are committed to finding solutions that will allow Tahoma to retain outstanding programs and provide strong learning experiences for our students. The community's approval of a 4-year levy last February made a significant, positive difference in our ability to continue offering a diversity of high quality educational programs to students, despite making spending reductions in other areas. We will provide regular updates to the community about the district budget next school year. For more details on the budget, you can visit our website at www.tahomasd.us/about/budget/updates.

A public budget hearing will be held July 28 at the District Office. Community members are welcome to attend in person or watch online. The School Board meeting schedule and meeting agendas can be found on the Tahoma School District website at https://www.tahomasd.us/about/school-board.

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Community Update from the Tahoma School District



Congratulations Class of 2026!

UPDATES ON:

STRATEGIC PLAN,

CAPITAL FACILITIES,

BUDGET, AND MORE!

Message from Superintendent Callison

As we wrap up another school year, I want to express my deepest gratitude to every single person who supported our students in the achievement of their goals and the pursuit of their dreams this year and in previous years. In June, over 700 seniors graduated from Tahoma High School. This is thanks to the commitment of many caring adults over many years; people serving in a variety of roles who were determined to ensure our seniors had what they needed to confidently graduate and step into the next part of their lives. Whether you played a direct role in a student's life this year as a parent, staff member, or volunteer, or supported Tahoma schools in some other way, please know your investment is priceless, life-changing, and sincerely appreciated.

Tahoma continues to maintain its long-standing tradition of excellence thanks to the importance our community places on education, the talented staff members who dedicate their lives to supporting and educating children in our district, and a strong network of tremendous parent and community volunteers. I am already looking forward to the great things we'll do together next year to maintain Tahoma's high standards, uphold our exceptional academic programs and support strong extracurricular programming.

With gratitude,
Dr. Ginger Callison Superintendent



Equal Opportunity Employer: The Tahoma School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer
Scott Mitchell, Executive Director of Human Resources
425-413-3400; TitleIX@tahomasd.us

ADA Coordinator
Scott Mitchell, Executive Director of Human Resources
425-413-3400; ADA@tahomasd.us

Section 504 Coordinator
Stacey Zachau, Asst. Dir. of Health & Wellness
425-413-3400; szachau@tahomasd.us

You'll get info about:
- Kindergarten Events
- Kindergarten News
- Class Placement

Do you have a child turning 5 by Aug. 31, 2026?

Enroll for Kindergarten!

Visit **https://bit.ly/KEnrollTahoma** to get started!