

August 27, 2026

Dear Tumwater School District Families,

It's hard to believe the start of a new school year is just around the corner! It's been wonderful to see staff back in our buildings—connecting with colleagues, participating in professional learning, setting up classrooms and workspaces, and preparing to welcome students. There is so much energy and excitement across the district as we get ready for another year of learning, growth, and opportunity for every student.

We want to share a brief update regarding ongoing negotiations with the Tumwater Association of Paraprofessionals (TAP). We are sharing this information in the spirit of transparency and so our families and staff have the information they need as we prepare for the start of a new school year. We learned that TAP members voted to authorize a strike. An authorization to strike does not mean that a strike will occur, and we remain confident that we can reach an agreement before the start of school. We have additional bargaining dates scheduled, and we remain committed to meeting as often as possible to reach an agreement.

Our paraprofessionals are an indispensable part of the Tumwater School District. They provide essential support, build meaningful relationships, and contribute in countless ways to the success of our schools. We value their dedication and the important work they do for our students, teachers, and families.

We believe continued conversation at the bargaining table is the best path forward. We will continue working in good faith toward an agreement that recognizes the contributions of our paraprofessionals while also supporting the long-term needs of our students and school district.

While we are optimistic that we will reach an agreement and begin school as planned, we also want families to have advance notice that, if circumstances were to change, there could be an impact on the start of the school year. We encourage families who may need one to begin thinking about a backup plan, simply as a precaution. At this time, there is no change to our school calendar for the planned start of school.

We will continue to keep you informed as negotiations progress and will share additional information if there are any changes that you need to know. You can expect to hear from us by 6 pm Monday with an update.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and schools—and for your appreciation of the many paraprofessionals who make such a difference in the lives of our students each day.

Sincerely,

Kevin Bogatin
Superintendent
Tumwater School District