The Flagship

A Newsletter of Shoreline Public Schools

SHORELINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Fall 2026



A Year of Growth: Progress on Our Envision Shoreline Strategic Plan



#ShorelineShines: Celebrating Student and Staff Achievements

Building for the Future: Facility Investments and Voter Support



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SHORELINE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Message

Looking ahead with renewed purpose as we begin the school year

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Dr. Susana Reyes, Superintendent

As we settle into the 2026-27 school year, I am filled with gratitude and excitement for what's ahead. Our communities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park consistently show up for our students and schools, in ways big and small, and I can already feel that same spirit carrying into this year.

We're building on real, measured progress on our Strategic Plan, Envision Shoreline. Our educators continue deepening their focus on strong instruction and foundational skills, and we're expanding the systems that ensure every student gets the right support at the right time. I am deeply proud of the educators and staff across our district whose daily work makes this progress possible. Every year, we celebrate recognition for our achievement, growth, and innovative approaches to serving students. None of this happens without the hundreds of teachers, staff, and administrators who show up for kids every single day, and I want to thank every one of them for representing the very best of what makes this district special.

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the voters of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park for their continued investment in our students and schools. Your support allows us to keep strengthening the classrooms, technology, and facilities our students rely on, and to keep planning thoughtfully for the future of our district.

As this school year gets underway, our momentum carries forward. We're expanding our support systems, deepening our instructional work, and continuing meaningful partnerships that reflect our shared commitment: every student supported, all students literate, each student thriving.

I look forward to a great year of building the kind of spirit that makes our district such an integral part of our community. Thank you for everything you do to make Shoreline schools such an exceptional place to learn and grow.

With Gratitude,

Susana

Shoreline Shines



Civil Rights Leader Visits Meridian Park Elementary School
During Black History Month, Meridian Park students experienced a truly unforgettable opportunity: welcoming Dr. Terrence Roberts of the Little Rock Nine as a guest speaker.
Students listened with respect, asked thoughtful questions, and engaged in meaningful dialogue about bravery, justice, and belonging.



Dual Language in the Spotlight
Dual language educators from across the state visited our Dual Language Program at Briarcrest, Kellogg, and Shorecrest, connecting, learning, and seeing the program in action. Staff from the state's Multilingual Learning and Dual Language offices were also on hand to observe our classrooms, see our teaching strategies in practice, and hear directly from students about their experiences in the program.



TSA Students Excel at Nationals
Forty-four middle and high school students from Cascade K-8, Einstein, Shorecrest, and Shorewood attended the National Technology Student Association Conference near Washington, DC, competing against 9,000 students in 70+ events.
Shorewood Senior Yeva Gomilko brought home a national championship trophy for Photographic Technology!

¡Felicidades, graduados!
Latiné Graduation honored graduating high school seniors alongside 8th graders moving up, in an evening filled with joy, pride, and cultural affirmation. Family members placed a serape over students' shoulders, a powerful moment recognizing that every achievement belongs not just to the student, but to everyone who walked alongside them.



Stormray Jazz Takes on NYC
Shorewood HS Jazz Band participated at the prestigious Essentially Ellington Festival, winning the Susan C. Gordon Award for Most Soulful Band — a powerful testament to their artistry, expression, and heart, presented by legend Wynton Marsalis.

Watch them perform and receive their award: ssd412.org/Ellington



Athletics Participation
Nearly half of Shoreline students in grades 7–12 participated in athletics in 2025-26. That's close to 2,000 students building skills, confidence, and community through school activities.
Participation in school athletics supports stronger student outcomes, which is why Shoreline remains committed to keeping athletics accessible, inclusive, and strong for all of our students.

44%
Shoreline 7-12th Grade Students Participate in Athletics or Competitive Performance

Would you like to receive our Shoreline Shines newsletter?
Shoreline Shines celebrates the bright moments happening across our schools. It highlights student and staff accomplishments, uplifting stories, and feel-good news that reflect the heart of our community.

Scan this code

Or sign up at:
ssd412.org/ShinesSignUp

Moving Forward Together: A Year What's Ahead This Year

Engage. Inspire. Empower.

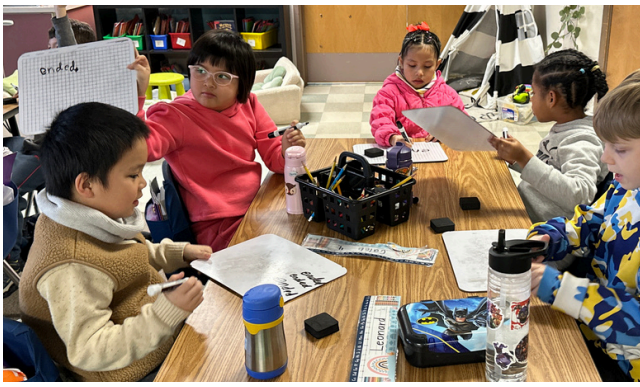
Our strategic plan, Envision Shoreline, guides everything we do to prepare students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, built around three interconnected priorities: every student supported, all students literate, and each student thriving. As we reflect on last year's progress and look ahead to this year, our work reflects real, sustained progress across all three areas.

Last Year in Review: 2025-26

Shoreline School District wrapped up the 2025-26 school year with meaningful progress on our three strategic priorities. This work focused on building sustainable systems, strengthening classroom instruction, and using student data more consistently to guide support and decision-making across schools.

A key highlight was the launch of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) pilot at three elementary schools and one middle school. MTSS is a framework that helps schools organize academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports so students get the right help at the right time. Pilot schools formed leadership teams, established progress monitoring routines, and strengthened core classroom instruction, with the middle school pilot placing particular emphasis on behavioral supports and coordination of student interventions.

On the literacy front, all elementary teachers implemented foundational reading instruction, with a focus on phonics, decoding, vocabulary, and word analysis skills. The district piloted the *Fishtank Learning English Language Arts* (ELA) curriculum, and following strong feedback from teachers and leaders, adopted it as the new required elementary ELA curriculum. This fall, thanks in part to the generous support of the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation, every elementary school classroom is implementing Fishtank to strengthen reading instruction and help improve learning for all students.





Middle schools expanded reading intervention programs, and high school pathway work focused on strengthening writing skills and expanding access to college-level coursework.

To support student well-being, all district administrators received restorative practices training, and schools continued implementing Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) practices focused on consistent expectations and relationship-based classroom routines.

Preliminary 2025-26 Results

Early Literacy Growth

+7 points

Reading growth for this year's 2nd graders since kindergarten. (~4 in 5 met year-end benchmarks)

Belonging

+5 points

More students report a stronger sense of belonging and identity at school.

5th Grade ELA

Improved

5th graders showed improvement on the state assessment.

Safety

+4 points

More students report they feel safe at school.

↗ On-time graduation rates have continued to improve over the last three years.

Learn more and see the progress toward our strategic plan targets: ssd412.org/Envision

# of Progress on Envision Shoreline, and

This Year: 2026-27 Instructional Plans

Building on this momentum, our plans for this year, which is just getting underway, expand and deepen this work across all three priorities.

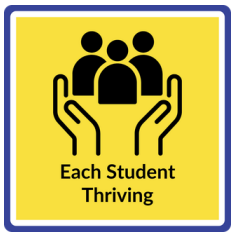


All Students Literate
Elementary schools are beginning to implement *Fishtank ELA* districtwide, alongside *UFLI* phonics instruction in grades K-2 and word study resources in grades 3-5. These research-backed tools work together to give every student a strong foundation in reading, from early decoding skills to comprehension of complex texts. Teachers will continue to have dedicated time and support to refine implementation throughout the year.



Every Student Supported
Multi-Tiered Systems of Support are expanding beyond last year's pilot schools to additional elementary schools and both Shorecrest and Shorewood high schools, with continued development of data dashboards and monitoring tools to support more consistent, coordinated intervention across the school district.





Each Student Thriving
We continue to strengthen math instruction through a *Bridges Math* 3rd Edition pilot. And we are deepening our social studies curriculum through continued partnership with the Tulalip and Snoqualmie Tribes on the *Since Time Immemorial* curriculum, honoring Native sovereignty and identity while preparing for full adoption in 2027-28.

Together, these efforts reflect Shoreline's ongoing commitment to a thoughtful, data-informed strategic plan that puts strong instruction and student success at the center of everything we do.

Special Education Success Snapshot

Shoreline's Student Services Department implements the systems, programs, and supports designed to ensure students with disabilities have access to meaningful, inclusive, and high-quality educational experiences from Pre-K through age 22.

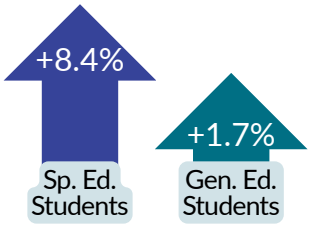
The district's continued commitment to inclusionary practices; MTSS; co-teaching (pairing a special education teacher with a general education teacher in the same class); behavior and transition supports; and collaboration with families, staff, and community partners is getting results for students who receive special education services, with graduation rates and post-secondary success above state averages.



Co-Taught Classes Work for All Students

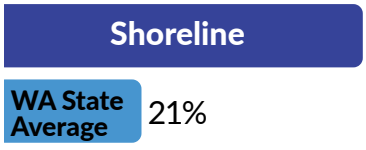
When general education and special education students learn together in the same English class, with two teachers supporting them, more students pass the class.

Over the last four years, students receiving special education services who took these combined classes passed at a rate 8.4% higher than students in traditional classrooms. General education students also benefited, passing at a rate 1.7% higher.



4-year Average Passing Rate Increases

Higher Education Enrollment Far Exceeds State Averages



2023-24 Students Receiving Special Education Services Who Advanced to 2- or 4-Year College

2026 Staff of the Year Award Winners!

These fantastic staff members and community supporters represent the best of what makes Shoreline School District such a special place to learn and grow. Their dedication, knowledge, and impact have earned the respect of the community and their peers, which is why they were selected for this year's awards.



Amy Pitts
Elementary Educator of the Year
Teacher, Briarcrest Elementary School



Laura Steiner
Office Staff of the Year
Main Office Secretary, Shorewood High School



Kathie Schindler
Support Staff of the Year
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent



Yolanda Doner
Paraeducator of the Year
Shorecrest High School and Kellogg Middle School



Crystal Fresco Gifford
Secondary Educator of the Year
Multilingual Learner and Social Studies Teacher, Shorecrest High School



Sadrina Dorn
Educational Specialist of the Year
Dean of Students, Briarcrest Elementary



Diana Gibbs
Early Learning Educator of the Year
Paraeducator, Edwin Pratt Early Learning Center



Eric Holzer
Volunteer of the Year
Award accepted by Eric's wife and daughters (pictured)



Sue Skorjanc
Administrator of the Year
Director of Transportation



KidVantage
Community Partner of the Year



Sam Brown
Substitute of the Year



Andrea Petrusky
Volunteer of the Year

Building for the Future: A Look at Recent District Facility Investments

Behind the scenes of everyday school life, Shoreline School District has been strengthening the places where students learn, play, and grow. From enhanced security to modernized infrastructure, these projects reflect a deliberate approach to caring for the buildings our community relies on and to planning ahead so small problems don't become expensive ones.

Following are just a few examples of the investments that we have made recently at some of our schools.

Safety and Security Upgrades at the High Schools

Both high schools received significant security enhancements this year, including secure perimeter fencing and upgraded camera systems throughout each campus. These improvements give staff better visibility across school grounds and more controlled, monitored access points—practical upgrades that help keep our high schools safe places to learn.



A New Turf Playfield at Highland Terrace Elementary

Highland Terrace Elementary School unveiled a fresh, durable turf playfield. Unlike traditional grass, turf holds up to heavy use in all seasons and requires far less maintenance, giving students a reliable surface for PE, recess, and after-school activities year-round and a place for community members to enjoy outside of school hours.



Briarcrest Elementary: A Multi-Year Infrastructure Overhaul

The most extensive project has been a multi-year effort to modernize Briarcrest Elementary's core infrastructure, including updated fire safety equipment, improved security, new play areas, a new roof, more energy-efficient heating and cooling, and more. Student learning was at the forefront of the work, helping ensure that an older building can still meet modern educational needs.



Energy Code Compliance and Conservation Projects

The district is working to ensure all buildings meet the Washington State Clean Buildings Performance Standard, which targets reduced energy use, greenhouse gas emissions, and operating costs. As part of this effort, the district is completely replacing heating and ventilation control systems at Highland Terrace, Lake Forest Park, and Ridgecrest elementary schools to cut energy costs and improve classroom comfort. The team is also actively optimizing HVAC equipment and controls at our middle and high schools to resolve ongoing indoor comfort issues and reduce energy costs, practical work that keeps our buildings efficient and comfortable for years to come.

Looking Ahead: A Long-Range Facilities Plan

These projects are just the start of a more coordinated approach. The district is launching a long-range facilities planning committee to develop a 15-year plan for ongoing maintenance and, when necessary, replacement of major building systems district-wide.

Rather than addressing needs one at a time as they arise, this approach aims to anticipate them before they become urgent, which will help the district make thoughtful, well-timed decisions about where to invest.

Watch for updates on the committee at ssd412.org/Long-Range

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Gratitude for Replacement Levy Support

We would like to thank the voters of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park for the overwhelming support of education and our students by passing the replacement levies in February!

- Proposition No. 1, Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O Levy) was approved by more than 73% of voters.
- Proposition No. 2, Replacement of Expiring Capital Levy for Technology Improvements and Support (Tech Levy) was approved by over 77% of voters.

Both of these outpaced many other school district propositions on ballots across Washington State this year and are a testament to a community that shows up to support each other in a myriad of ways, including funding local education.



Achieving and Maintaining Academic Excellence Districtwide



Shoreline has been named **one of 25 award-winning districts for the State Superintendent's Award for Educational Excellence** in Student Achievement, recognizing top performance and progress in measures like attendance, reading, math, and graduation rates.

Superintendent Susana Reyes credits the honor to the collective effort of teachers, staff, students, families, and community partners.



Shorewood and Shorecrest high schools have earned six-year AESD accreditation through spring 2032, along with individual commendations for exceptional work.

Shorewood was recognized for using post-graduation data to strengthen dual-credit and CTE programs, preparing students for the workforce, college, and beyond.

Shorecrest was commended for expanding opportunities through its co-teaching model and inclusive priority scheduling for Dual Language and Multilingual Learner students.

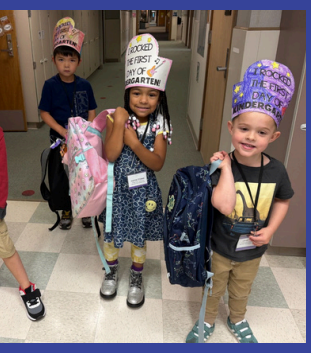
This achievement reflects the dedication of the staff and teachers at the high schools doing such meaningful work for their students and communities.

Schools Honored by the Washington School Recognition Program for 2024-25

Cascade K-8 Community School: Growth and Achievement | Top performance in ELA and Math; strongest gains statewide across all students, including low-income and special education students.

Highland Terrace Elementary: Growth | Top 10% statewide for Hispanic/Latino student growth in ELA and attendance; top 10% for low-income student growth in ELA, Math, and Math growth percentiles.

Meridian Park Elementary: Achievement | Top 20% statewide in ELA, Math, and Attendance rate.



Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by August 31, 2027?

If so, they can start kindergarten in the fall of 2027.

Key Dates

Kindergarten open enrollment: January 30 - February 26



Keep your eyes open for a Kinderfest invitation postcard in your mailbox in January!