



PARENT RESOURCE HANDBOOK

& 2005-06 Student Rights, Responsibilities & Regulations

WELCOME TO THE TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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District calendar

Thank you for choosing to enroll your child in the Tacoma Public Schools. We are looking forward to a successful year of learning for your child.



Students are achieving success every day in the Tacoma Public Schools. Test scores are rising, attendance is improving, students are making community and school connections, but there is more work to be done. The district is working hard to close the achievement gap through various efforts from curriculum development to increased family involvement.

The world is changing and so are the needs of students. The district provides various alternative programs to assist students whose needs may not be met in a traditional classroom setting.

As a parent, there are increased demands on your time. There are also increased demands and expectations of students and teachers. This resource book/calendar provides you with valuable district information and activities you can do at home to support your child's learning. I encourage you to try some of these activities and let us know what you think. We are always looking for ways to better serve our families and increase student achievement.

Stay informed about what is going on in the district by logging onto the district Web site, www.tacomaschools.org, and signing up for the district's weekly e-newsletter, "Webucator," checking out the online newsroom or watching TPS TV (ch. 12, Comcast; ch. 87, Click!).

TACOMA KIDS ROCK AND READ

Through a partnership with the Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation, the district has launched "Tacoma Kids Rock and Read," a campaign designed to recognize and celebrate student achievement. Students who are nominated will receive a special certificate of recognition.

An opportunity is also available for parents, teachers and community members to recognize individual student achievement during the 2005-06 school year. Nomination forms are available online at www.TacomaKidsRock.org. For more information about this program, please contact Community Relations, 253.571.1015.

NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Tacoma School District complies with all federal laws and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, marital or veteran status or disability. The district also prohibits the use of racial, ethnic, and/or sexual slurs, including sexual harassment. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extra-curricular activities. Inquiries regarding the application of the above reference should be directed to the assistant to the superintendent, equity and diversity, P.O. Box 1357, Tacoma, WA 98401-1357; telephone 253.571.1292. Inquiries regarding the application of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (concerning disabilities) should be directed to the director, comprehensive guidance programs, P.O. Box 1357, Tacoma, WA 98401-1357; telephone 253.571.1063.

CAMBODIAN	LAOTIAN	SPANISH
ផ្ញើក្រុមប្រឹក្សាសាលារៀនរបស់កូនអ្នក ។ សំខាន់បំផុតគឺសាលារៀនរបស់កូនអ្នក ។ សូមបញ្ជាក់កិច្ចការរបស់កូនអ្នក ។ សូមអរគុណ ។	ຂັດຕິດມາພ້ອມນີ້ແມ່ນເອກະສານສຳຄັນ ຈາກໂຮງຮຽນຂອງລູກທ່ານ. ກະລຸນາຮັບເອົາເອກະສານຊຶ່ງພວກເຮົາໄດ້ແປໃຫ້ທ່ານແລ້ວນີ້ໄວ້ດ້ວຍ. ຂອບໃຈ.	Adjunto encontrará un documento importante de la escuela de su hijo/a. Si corresponde, sírvase pedir que se lo traduzcan. Muchas gracias.
KOREAN	RUSSIAN	VIETNAMESE
귀책 자녀의 학교에서 보내 드리는 본 서류는 중요합니다. 자녀에게 서류에 있는 내용을 설명해 달라고 하십시오. 감사합니다.	В приложении Вы найдете важный документ из школы, где учатся Ваш ребенок. Пожалуйста, попросите, чтобы Вам его перевели. Спасибо!	Kèm theo đây là giấy tờ quan trọng của nhà trường con em quý vị. Xin hãy nhờ người giỏi thích những giấy tờ này cho quý vị. Cảm ơn.
Attached is an important document from your child's school. Please have this document translated for you. Thank you.		

YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

Tacoma school board members are elected in odd-numbered years and serve six-year terms. School board meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays of each month beginning at 6 p.m. in the fourth floor auditorium in the Central Administration Building, 601 S. 8th Street, Tacoma. Contact school board members by writing them c/o Tacoma School District, P.O. Box 1357, Tacoma, WA 98401-1357.



DEBBIE WINSKILL

President
253.627.7377
Term expires
November 2007



KURT MILLER

Vice President
253.571.1290
Term expires
November 2009



CONNIE RICKMAN

253.571.7442
Term expires
November 2009



EUGENE MATSUSAKA

253.571.6195
Term expires
November 2005



WILLIE STEWART

253.571.6192
Term expires
November 2005

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND LEGISLATION

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 requires states to establish student achievement standards; establish assessment systems to measure student progress toward those standards; and have all students at those standards by 2014.

Students in grades 4, 7 and 10 must take the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Starting in 2005-06, assessments like the WASL ("WASLettes") will be required for students in grades 3, 5, 6 and 8.

The district and teachers are working hard to close the achievement gap and help students meet the NCLB standards, but it is essential to have the help of parents and community members for student success.

HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

As part of the provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, you may request the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s) by contacting your child's school. The Tacoma School District will provide you with the information as soon as possible upon request. Thank you for your interest and involvement in your child's education.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Tacoma Public Schools is to guarantee that each student will attain the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that lead to a self-sufficient, socially responsible life to the best of his or her individual potential.

DISTRICT GOALS

The goals of the Tacoma Public Schools are:

- Higher student achievement
- Increased parental involvement
- Improved student attendance

DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

(2004-05 school year)

Student count	31,128
Minority enrollment	48%
Free or reduced-price meals	51%
Special education	13.6%
Transitional bilingual	6.6%

Elementary schools	36
Middle schools	11
Comprehensive high schools	5
Alternative learning sites	8

Tacoma Public Schools

District Offices
601 S. 8th St.
Tacoma, WA 98405-1357
Phone: 253.571.1000
www.tacomaschools.org

DISTRICT DIRECTORY

SCHOOL HOURS*

Elementary school hours

9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Middle school hours

8 a.m.–2:20 p.m.

High school hours

7:35 a.m.–2:05 p.m.

Exceptions:

Stadium H.S. 8:05 a.m.–2:35 p.m.

*Please check with your school to confirm school operating hours.

TACOMA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS CALENDAR

The Tacoma School of the Arts (TSOTA) follows a different calendar than the district calendar. TSOTA has an extended learning day so its holidays and vacations are frequently different than the comprehensive high schools. Contact TSOTA for a copy of its calendar at 253.571.7900.



GENERAL INFORMATION	253.571.1000
Alternative Programs.....	253.571.1033
Arts Education.....	253.571.2698
Athletics/Activities.....	253.571.1123
Attendance Area Boundaries.....	253.571.1189
Bilingual Education.....	253.571.1161
Bus Route Information (First Student Inc.).....	253.272.7750
Career & Technical Education.....	253.571.1126
Challenge/Highly Capable Programs.....	253.571.1156
ChildFind.....	253.571.1047
Community Relations.....	253.571.1015
Counseling/Guidance.....	253.571.1063
Curriculum & Instruction.....	253.571.1120
Dial-the-Superintendent (24-hour).....	253.571.1020
Early Childhood Education (ECEAP).....	253.571.1870
Elementary Education.....	253.571.1032
Enrollment Services.....	253.571.1142
Food Services (lunch/breakfast).....	253.571.3370
Head Start.....	253.571.3600
Health (Nursing) Services.....	253.571.1438
High School Education.....	253.571.1033
Highly Capable Student Programs (Gifted).....	253.571.1120
Instructional Technology.....	253.571.3541
Kindergarten.....	253.571.2534
Learning Assistance Program (LAP).....	253.571.1111
Maintenance.....	253.571.3330
Mathematics/Science.....	253.571.2633
Middle School Education.....	253.571.1036
Optional Enrollment.....	253.571.1192
Partnerships, School and Business.....	253.571.1087
Research and Evaluation.....	253.571.1192
Running Start/Fresh Start.....	253.571.1139
School Board.....	253.571.1443
Security.....	253.571.1288
Special Education.....	253.571.1040
Summer School Programs.....	253.571.2675
Superintendent's Office.....	253.571.1010
Transportation, Special Education.....	253.571.1855
Transportation, First Student.....	253.272.7750
Truancy.....	253.571.2123
Volunteer Services.....	253.571.1087

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

SCHOOL CLOSURES

The decision to close schools due to inclement weather or bad road conditions will be announced on www.schoolreport.org and most television and radio stations including:

KIRO Radio (710 AM)
KOMO TV (ch. 4)
KIRO TV (ch. 7)

KOMO Radio (1000 AM)
KING TV (ch. 5)
KCPQ TV (ch. 13)

You may also call the district information line at 253.571.1000 beginning at 6 a.m. for school closure information. The decision to close schools is made by the superintendent as early as possible, usually around 5:30 a.m.

- If you do not hear “Tacoma School District No. 10” listed in the closures, you may assume schools are operating on a normal schedule.
- If you hear an announcement that “schools will operate **one hour late**,” it means:
 1. Buses are on regular routes
 2. A.M. kindergarten one hour late
 3. P.M. kindergarten on schedule
 4. No Head Start, ECEAP or special education preschool
 5. Elementary JAWS and band canceled
 6. After-school activity buses on schedule
 7. No out-of district transportation
- If you hear an announcement that “schools will operate **two hours late**,” it means:
 1. Buses are on regular routes
 2. All half-day programs are canceled (A.M./P.M. kindergarten, Head Start, ECEAP, special education preschool)
 3. Elementary JAWS (highly capable) and band programs canceled
 4. After-school activity buses on schedule
 5. No out-of-district transportation
- If you hear an announcement that “**all schools are closed**,” it means:
 1. Administrative, maintenance and custodial offices will operate unless announced otherwise
 2. All activities canceled

If school is delayed, staff is expected to report when it is safely possible so they can prepare for the arrival of students.

Listen to radio and television for the latest information. Changing conditions may cause the district to alter the status of school. Check the district Web site, www.tacomaschools.org, for updates. If there are late start days on inclement weather days, staff will be advised as to student/staff arrival times.



DISTRICT NEWS AND INFORMATION

The Tacoma Public Schools has resources to update you on the latest district information and news 24 hours a day. Please contact Community Relations, 253.571.1015, if you have any questions about these services or need assistance.

DISTRICT INFORMATION LINE
253.571.1000

DISTRICT WEB SITE
www.tacomaschools.org

DISTRICT E-NEWSLETTER
“The Webucator”
www.tacomaschools.org/calendar/webucator

ONLINE NEWSROOM
www.tacomaschools.org/newsroom

TPS TV
You can also access frequent bulletins and educational programming on TPS TV, which can be found on the following cable channels:

- Comcast (Channel 26)
- Click! (Channel 87)

**DISTRICT
INFORMATION LINE
253.571.1000**

IMPORTANT TESTING DATES

SEPT. 1, 2005–MAY 5, 2006

Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS)

Grade 3	WAAS Reading, Math
Grade 4	WAAS Reading, Math, Writing
Grade 5	WAAS Reading, Math, Science
Grade 6	WAAS Reading, Math
Grade 7	WAAS Reading, Math, Writing
Grade 8	WAAS Reading, Math, Science
Grade 10	WAAS Reading, Math, Writing, Science
Grade 11	WAAS Retakes; Reading, Math, Writing, Science

SEPT. 12–OCT. 4, 2005*

K–8 Reading Assessments

Kindergarten	Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS)
Grade 1	Reading Screening Tacoma Screening Instrument (TSI) Words
Grade 1	DIBELS
Grade 2	State Required Reading Accuracy and Fluency Assessment (DIBELS) • completed before first parent conferences
Grade 3	DIBELS
Grade 4	DIBELS
Grade 5	DIBELS
Grade 6	Achievement Improvement Monitoring System (AIMS)
Grade 7	AIMS
Grade 8	AIMS

JAN. 9–20, 2006*

Grade 2	Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT)
Grades 5–8	Degrees of Reading Power (DRP)

JAN. 17–FEB. 3, 2006*

K–8 Reading Assessments

Kindergarten	DIBELS
Grade 1	TSI Words
Grade 1	DIBELS
Grade 2	DIBELS
Grade 3	DIBELS
Grade 4	DIBELS
Grade 5	DIBELS
Grade 6	AIMS
Grade 7	AIMS
Grade 8	AIMS

FEB. 13–MARCH 10, 2006*

Washington Language Proficiency Test (WLPT)

MARCH 13–16, 2006 No make-up testing

State Standardized Schedule

High School	Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) Reading and Writing
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APRIL 17–28, 2006* Testing

MAY 1–5, 2006* Make-up testing

Grade 3	WASL Reading, Math
Grade 4	WASL Reading, Math, Writing
Grade 5	WASL Reading, Math, Science
Grade 6	WASL Reading, Math
Grade 7	WASL Reading, Math, Writing
Grade 8	WASL Reading, Math, Science

APRIL 18–21, 2006 No make-up testing

State Standardized Schedule

High School	WASL Math and Science
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MAY 8–25, 2006*

K–8 Reading Assessments

Kindergarten	DIBELS
Grade 1	TSI Words
Grade 1	DIBELS
Grade 2	DIBELS
Grade 3	DIBELS
Grade 4	DIBELS
Grade 5	DIBELS
Grade 6	AIMS
Grade 7	AIMS
Grade 8	AIMS

OTHER TESTS

(Applications are available through school counselors.)

PSAT	10/12/05, 10/15/05
SAT	10/8/05, 11/5/05, 12/3/05, 1/28/06, 4/1/06, 5/6/06, 6/3/06
ACT	9/2/05, 10/22/05, 12/10/05, 2/11/06, 4/8/06, 6/10/06
AP Exams	May 1–5, 2006; May 8–12, 2006
IB Exams	May 2–23, 2006 (Foss only)

*Schools may schedule test within these timeframes.

ENROLLMENT

HOW TO ENROLL YOUR CHILD IN SCHOOL

To enroll your student, contact your nearest school. Staff members can tell you about special programs and give you enrollment forms. If you do not know which school your student should attend, call Enrollment Services at 253.571.1142.

Kindergarten students must be five years old on or before Aug. 31. Students who are six years old on or before Aug. 31 may enter first grade, even if they have not been to kindergarten. If your student will be in kindergarten or first grade, you will need to show his/her birth certificate or other proof of age at the time of enrollment.

Remember, all students in Washington state must be immunized. Please bring immunization papers with you when you enroll your student.

Students entering grades six through 12 also need withdrawal sheets or report cards from their last school.

Parents of students new to the district, or those entering kindergarten, sixth grade or ninth grade, may request that their students be enrolled in a school outside their neighborhood through the state's Choice Enrollment Program or the district's Optional Enrollment. Ask the principal of the school nearest your home about your choices, or call Enrollment Services, 253.571.1142.

State law (RCW 28A.225) and district policy require daily and punctual attendance of all students, unless officially excused.

In accordance with the state's mandatory attendance laws, if a student is absent without a valid excuse **five** times within a month or **10** times within a year, the school district *may* file a petition with the juvenile court seeking the court's jurisdiction over the student's attendance in school.

RELEASE OF ATTENDANCE

If your student is a resident of the Tacoma School District and is interested in attending school in another district, you must first be released from Tacoma. To obtain the appropriate form, call Enrollment Services, 253.571.1142, or go online to www.tacomaschools.org/schools/enroll/ES-12-2005.pdf.

NONRESIDENT APPLICATIONS

Applicants must first be released from their resident district and then complete nonresident paperwork as per district policy 3141 and 3141R.

CHILDFIND SCREENINGS

If your preschool-age child has trouble hearing, moving, talking, playing, learning or behaving, ChildFind screening clinics will check your child's development. Special Education services are available if your child qualifies.

The screening clinics are conducted at the district's Park Avenue site at 6701 Park Ave. on the Friday mornings listed below, between 8:45–11:30 a.m. Please call 253.571.1047 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Sept. 16	Oct. 21	Nov. 18	Dec. 9
Jan. 20	Feb. 24	March 24	April 21
May 19			

FOOD SERVICES

Breakfast and lunch are available the first day of school. If your student brings a lunch from home, he/she can purchase milk. All other meals include milk. Students may prepay for meals.

The Tacoma Public Schools offers free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch to eligible students. Eligibility is determined by household income and size. Applications are available in each school office. Please call Food Services at 253.571.3370 for more information or assistance.

2005-06	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary	\$1.20	\$2.00
Middle school	1.20	2.25
High school	1.20	2.25
Reduced price	.30	.40
Milk	.35	.35

RIDING THE BUS TO SCHOOL

Your student may ride the bus to school if you live outside a one-mile radius of your primary school of attendance. If your student qualifies for transportation, your school staff will complete the proper forms and let you know where the nearest bus stop is located.



HEALTH AND SAFETY

MENINGOCOCCAL INFORMATION

Under state law, schools are required to provide meningococcal information beginning with sixth-grade entry to students and parents in our community.

Meningococcal disease, commonly known as meningococcal meningitis, strikes up to 3,000 adolescents and adults in the U.S. each year. Adolescents and young adults have an increased rate of contracting meningococcal disease compared to the general population, accounting for nearly 30 percent of all U.S. cases annually. According to one study, as many as one out of every four adolescents infected with the disease may die. Of those who survive, up to 20 percent suffer long-term disabilities, including brain damage, hearing loss, kidney disease and limb amputations.

The Department of Health wants you to be aware of meningococcal meningitis and the availability of a vaccine to protect against the disease. Vaccination can help protect against up to 83 percent of the meningococcal disease cases occurring among adolescents and young adults. Vaccination is not required for school attendance.

We encourage you to learn more about meningococcal meningitis and prevention and speak to your child's physician about immunization. In addition, we urge you to speak to your children about good hygiene and not sharing personal items that may help transmit the disease.

There is additional information available on the following Web sites:

Washington State Department of Health immunization program
Meningococcal disease information: www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/Immunize/meningococcal.htm

HEALTHY STUDENTS MAKE BETTER STUDENTS

Students are routinely screened for vision, hearing and other common problems. Students are not automatically covered by medical, dental or accident insurance. If your student is not covered by a family plan, you may purchase student insurance through the district. Most students and youth up to and including age 19 who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch can also receive free health coverage through Medicaid, Basic Health Plan Plus and/or Healthy Options programs. Contact your school office for student insurance forms.

IMMUNIZATIONS: NO SHOTS , NO SCHOOL

Washington state law requires that students enrolled in grades K–12 be fully immunized. Any student enrolling in a Tacoma School District school must show proof of immunizations before the enrollment process begins. Students will not be enrolled unless immunization requirements are met. All students preregistering for kindergarten must provide proof of being fully immunized in order to complete the registration process. When you enroll your student in school, please fill out a Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) form. State law requires that the CIS form be dated and signed by the parent or guardian.

ILLNESS OR INJURIES AT SCHOOL

If your student is injured or is too sick to remain at school, he/she will be sent home only after the school contacts you or the emergency contact person you list on the enrollment form. If no one is available, your student will be kept at school. If there is an emergency, school staff members will act on the parent's behalf and get help. Use of canes, crutches, walker aids and/or wheelchairs at school must have written authorization from a health care provider. Please keep the school nurse informed of any changes in your student's health condition.

MEDICINE AT SCHOOL

If your student needs to take prescription or over-the-counter medication at school, you and your student's doctor must sign a permission form. This form is available at your doctor's office or from your student's school. The medication must be sent in its original container and it must show your student's name, the dosage and the time medication should be given. The medication must be brought to school by the parent or another responsible adult. Please provide an empty second prescription bottle with identical label for use on field trips.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

It is recommended that your student have a physical examination before entering kindergarten, sixth and ninth grades. Middle school and high school students participating in interscholastic or extramural athletics must have a physical examination before trying out for a sport. Call the district athletic/activities office at 253.571.1123 for more information.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Meningococcal vaccine information: www.cdc.gov/nip/pubilcatons/vis/vis-mening.pdf;

Disease Information: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm;

Fact sheets: www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening_fs.pdf

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center:

www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_mening_tear.pdf

National Meningitis Association:

www.nmaus.org/programs/pta/index.htm

HEALTH AND SAFETY

PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES TO STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL MEDICAL NEEDS

The Tacoma School District is providing full-time nursing staff at eight elementary schools for students with serious health conditions requiring specialized licensed health care. Students will be served at the regional site closest to their residence. For more information, please contact the Health Services Department administrator, Delois Brown, at 253.571.1506 or 253.571.1438. Regional sites are located at:

Fawcett	Lister
Franklin	Northeast Tacoma
Geiger	Sherman
Larchmont	Whittier

CHILDREN WITH LIFE-THREATENING CONDITIONS

A state law passed in 2002 directs school administrators to require the presentation of a medication or treatment order and a health care plan for a child's life-threatening health condition that may require medical services to be performed at school. The medication or treatment order and health care plan must be provided before or on each child's first day of attendance or continued attendance if the child is already in school. Please contact the school nurse if your child has a life-threatening health condition.

SAFETY GUIDELINES

To ensure student safety, unauthorized persons are not allowed on school property and students are not allowed to leave school without permission. All registered volunteers have background checks completed to ensure student safety. The district violence prevention plan includes skill-building activities for students and education and information for parents and staff.

Campus security personnel are assigned to all high schools and middle schools. Mobile security patrol officers provide security for elementary schools. The Tacoma Police Department responds immediately to calls for assistance and provides help in other areas.

Please take time to talk about safety with your student. Here are some guidelines that will help your student stay safe on the way to school:

- Crossing guards will help your student cross some of the city's busiest streets. Because it is not possible to have crossing guards at each crosswalk, please teach your student how to cross streets safely and to obey crossing guards when they are on duty.
- If you drive your student to school, please drop off your student in the designated area. Please do not stop your car in "no parking zones" or in school crossings. These zones are designed to help keep students safe.
- Parents and teachers must be partners in teaching students personal safety.
- Your student may ride a bike to school. The district is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged bicycles.

In case of emergencies such as an earthquake, a volcanic eruption or fire, elementary students and students with disabilities will not be sent home until school staff members know there is someone at home to supervise him/her or that other care has been arranged. Please arrange alternative care for younger students. If it is necessary to close schools during the day and send students home, local media will be alerted.

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT ON HIV/AIDS CURRICULUM

Washington state law requires that parents review the HIV/AIDS curriculum for students in grades 5–12 before excluding their student from participating. Please contact your school nurse for the time and place of the presentation.

WEAPONS ARE NOT ALLOWED

Weapons are not allowed at school, on buses, on district property or at any school-sponsored event. If a student is discovered with a weapon of any kind, police will be called and the student will be immediately expelled.

CLOSED CAMPUSES

Students in kindergarten through grade 12 must have the school's permission to leave the school grounds during regular school hours.



PROGRAMS

ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY

Under optional enrollment, incoming ninth graders are automatically eligible for interscholastic athletics regardless of their primary attendance area.

A student who first opted to enroll in a school outside his/her attendance area, or who enrolled in his/her primary attendance area school and turned out for an interscholastic sports activity, has established himself/herself at that school.

If a high school student transfers to another school within the district, he/she is ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities for one year from the date of transfer. Students may ask for a review of their athletic eligibility by the district's review board.

To participate in middle and high school athletics, students must be able to show proof that they are covered by their family's insurance plan or by school-provided athletic insurance. For additional information, see regulation 2151R "Interscholastic Athletics" on the Tacoma Public Schools Web site under School Board Policies, series 2000.



EDUCATIONAL CHOICES

Some students have special needs which can best be met by the district's alternative programs. The list below describes some options available in the Tacoma Public Schools. For more information, call 253.571.1387.

Oakland Alternative High School is a high school of under 200 students that offers a full-day learning experience and a flexible schedule to meet individual needs. This program is designed for students who need to make up credits or who progress at a faster rate.

Centro Latino is a partnership between the Tacoma Public Schools and Centro Latino SER agency. Students receive a full-day program at Oakland High School and receive referral services from Centro Latino SER. Call 253.571.6480 for more information.

Tacoma Urban League Academy is a partnership between the Tacoma Public Schools and Tacoma Urban League. Students attend Oakland High School where they earn enough credits to enroll in the New Chance program, an educational opportunity provided by Bates Technical College in conjunction with the Tacoma Urban League. Call 253.571.6480 for more information.

The Alternative Learning Center, located on the Oakland High School site, provides a student-centered curriculum that can respond to the needs of students and offers a different educational choice. Students apply for this program, are interviewed by a teacher in the center and are assigned classes. Students are self-motivated and need a flexible school schedule. Learning is individualized to meet each student's needs. Call 253.571.1955 for more information.

Hilltop Artists in Residence, located on the Wilson High School site, serves high school students enrolled in the Hilltop Artists Program seeking academic skills in core subjects. Call 253.571.6078 for more information.

Lincoln Tree Farm, located on a 365-acre forest, offers a full-day program for students ages 16–21 who are interested in natural resource management and environmental science. Call 253.571.6660 for more information.

Metro Parks provides an educational alternative for high-risk youth in grades 9 through 12. Call 253.761.3101 for more information.

COLLEGE CREDIT PROGRAMS

Running Start is available at all high schools and Oakland Alternative H.S. Students can earn up to two years of tuition-free college credit. A split program, attending both high school and college classes, is permissible.

Dual credit courses can be taken at high schools. Each high school determines which of its courses will offer dual credit. For more information, please contact your high school counselor.

SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Education services are determined by a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) that addresses the unique needs of the student. A continuum of services for students with special needs is provided by the Tacoma School District. The range of services may include instruction, speech and language therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology and transitional services.

PROGRAMS

CHALLENGE/HIGHLY CAPABLE PROGRAMS

Some students may be ready for more challenging, advanced work before others. Elementary programs include: Joining Ability With Subject (JAWS), a part-time program outside classrooms; and Self-contained Advanced Individual Learning (SAIL), a full-time program. The school-wide enrichment model is also available at several schools this year. Middle schools offer programs including options in language arts, social studies, mathematics, science or specialized exploratory classes. Testing for this program is conducted four times each year, by grade levels, as indicated below:

2005-06 Grade Level	Nomination Deadline	Testing Dates
New students	Sept. 16, 2005	Sept. 24 & Oct. 1, 2005
Grade 5	Dec. 1, 2005	Dec. 17, 2005
Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Feb. 3, 2006	March 4 & 11, 2006
Grade 2	March 31, 2006	*April 17–May 5, 2006

*Contact school for more information.

Nomination forms for new students must be received by the Curriculum and Instruction Office no later than 4:30 p.m., Sept. 16, 2005. Students who enter the district after the above 2005-06 deadlines will have an opportunity to be tested in September 2006 for the 2006-07 school year.

PROGRAMS FOR INCOME-ELIGIBLE PRESCHOOLERS

Help your four-year-old student get ready for kindergarten by enrolling in the Head Start program or the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

To qualify for Head Start or ECEAP, your student must be four years old by Aug. 31, you must meet income requirements and live within the Tacoma School District boundaries. For information on Head Start, call 253.571.1948. For information on ECEAP, call 253.571.1870.

SUMMERTIME AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Many types of classes are offered in the summer. Classes have been developed to be exciting as well as fit the learning needs of all students. They range from basic subjects to art and are described in a catalog mailed to families in the spring. Many classes have a tuition fee, but assistance is available for students who need financial assistance.

STUDENT FEES

Schools provide students with most of the books, materials and equipment they need for class. Fees may be charged in a few classes, including arts, crafts, industrial education and home economics.

Students will be charged for any property or materials that are lost, stolen or damaged. The district is authorized to withhold grades, diplomas and/or transcripts unless arrangements are made with the principal for payment.

A small fee may be charged for some field trips. Fees may be waived if you cannot afford them. Contact your building administrator for more information.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The Washington State Board of Education recently established new graduation requirements that will require each student to develop an educational plan to guide his/her high school experience along with expectations for the year following graduation, and complete a culminating project that demonstrates knowledge and skills in the basic required subjects, along with any special knowledge and skills relevant to the chosen career pathway. The Tacoma Public Schools has further defined these requirements by assisting students in selecting career pathways and taking classes that help students explore opportunities in those pathways and creating portfolios that represent their educational experiences.

Beginning with the class entering ninth grade in the 2004-05 school year, graduation requirements for the school district are to:

- Complete a culminating project
- Qualify for a Washington Certificate of Mastery
- Develop a plan for meeting high school graduation requirements and a post high school career goals
- Earn 23 high school credits within required categories detailed in policy 2410.



SCHOOL/FAMILY/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Get involved and offer your ideas on how the Tacoma Public Schools can assist your efforts to support your child's learning.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Need additional support or resources?

Family Support Centers, 253.571.2594

Family Literacy and ESL for parents, 253.571.1874

School/Family/Community Partnership Program, 253.571.1087

Community Connections Handbook, a comprehensive family resource book. A hard copy is available in the School/Family/Community Partnership Office or online at www.tacoma.k12.wa.us/community/index.asp.

You are as important as your children's teachers in their school success.



HOME-SCHOOL CONNECTION

The Tacoma Public Schools is working to help develop strong home-school connections with families. Here are some ways to develop a strong home-school connection:

- Inform your child's school about your child's needs and contact them when you have ideas or questions about your child's education.
- Talk to your child about what he/she is learning in school. Get to know the school staff
- Set a time to read material sent home from school.

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

Students learn best when schools, families and community work together. There things you can do to help build partnerships in the community that promotes student learning.

- Play a role in building partnerships between school and other groups.
- Thank local merchants and other business owners who support school activities.
- Help the school connection with the businesses and organizations you use.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a great way to participate at your child's school. Please contact the volunteer coordinator or the main office at your child's school to sign up to volunteer. All volunteers must complete an application, go through a screening process and be approved before they can volunteer at a school.

- Spend time at school helping out or find a creative way to help from home.
- Offer to share your knowledge with students: about your job, another culture, a craft or special talent you have.
- Tutor a student who needs extra help.
- Volunteer to read with students during scheduled reading time.

DECISION-MAKING AT SCHOOL

Another way you can support your child's education is by becoming involved in the decision-making at your child's school. Get informed and get involved in making your school work.

- Join the school's parent group.
- Volunteer to serve on school decision-making committees.
- Attend school board meetings.

SCHOOL/FAMILY/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

253.571.1087