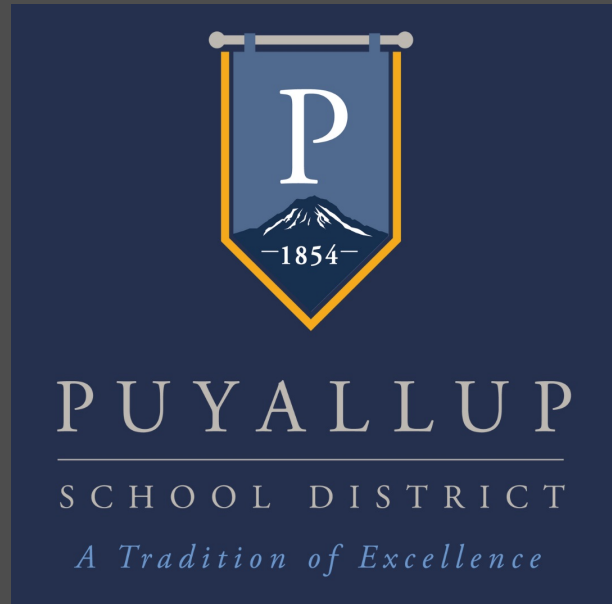




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presents an invitation to apply  
for the position of  
**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Puyallup School District  
Puyallup, Washington  
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The Puyallup School District is accepting applications for the position of Superintendent to replace Mr. Richard Lasso, who has served as the interim superintendent for the past year and will be returning to his previous position at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

This is an excellent opportunity for a proven leader with the sincere interest and expertise to move a strong, high functioning school district to the next level. The district enjoys a supportive community and highly dedicated staff serving more than 23,500 students. This is a district that continues to experience student growth throughout its entire system and is focused on providing a wide, comprehensive field of programs and services to meet the needs of students, staff, and the Puyallup community.

To receive full consideration for this position, application materials must be received by February 11, 2026.



## Our Community

Puyallup is a suburban community in Washington that blends a small-town feel with city amenities, known for its agricultural roots, proximity to Mount Rainier, and strong sense of community. The city has a growing population and is a popular destination for families and young professionals, with both a historic downtown and newer developments offering numerous parks, restaurants, and shops. The Puyallup people are the indigenous people of the area, and their history, culture, and treaty rights are a significant part of the region's heritage.

Puyallup has plentiful housing and commuter rail and transit access, it's close to metropolitan cities, Sea-Tac International Airport and has easy access to Mount Rainier, hiking trails, Puget Sound, and a variety of lakes and rivers perfect for fishing and boating enthusiasts.

Puyallup is home to the Washington State Fair, several restaurants and shopping centers, historic sites, art events, and a hub of medical and surgical facilities. A thriving auto sales industry, as well as a busy retail sector contribute to substantial sales tax revenues which fund vital downtown and public services.

For more information about the community visit:

[www.puyallupwa.gov](http://www.puyallupwa.gov)



## Puyallup School District

The Puyallup School District is the sixth largest district in the state of Washington, serving a population of approximately 144,030 residents. The district is located six miles east of Tacoma, 30 miles south of Seattle, and is situated in the heart of the Puyallup Valley.

The district has 22 elementary schools, seven junior high schools, three comprehensive senior high schools, an alternative school, and a digital learning program, all of which serve more than 23,100 students. The district employs approximately 1,560 certificated, 1,450 classified staff, and 570 substitute personnel.

### Our Mission

To prepare and empower every student to reach their full potential and to thrive in school, society, work, and life.

### Our Vision

The Puyallup School District values academic excellence and ensures every student learns in safe and supportive environments in order to develop as critical thinkers ready to take on the world.

## Our Beliefs

In partnership with our communities, we:

- Treat each student as a unique learner.
- Ensure all students have equal opportunities for learning and are supported in achieving competency in required subject and performance areas.
- Regularly assess, evaluate, and communicate to students, families, and the community the results of student performance.
- Engage parents/guardians, family members, guardians, and students as active partners in the educational process.
- Incorporate concepts of diversity that benefit all and are integral in all district endeavors.
- Communicate effectively with parents/guardians, students, staff, and members of the community.
- Cultivate and maintain partnerships that support district goals.
- Provide students and staff a safe and supportive learning and working environment.
- Demonstrate accountability to all stakeholders.

## Our History

The Puyallup School District was organized in 1854, and was the third school district formed in the state of Washington. Fort Maloney, also known as the "Blockhouse," was built on the south bank of the Puyallup River. It was used by U.S. soldiers as a storehouse and was occupied by the John Carson family. Emma Carson was the first teacher in Puyallup and had four students in the Blockhouse School in 1861. Fort Maloney also served as the first post office.

Several one-room log schools were built in the area to serve the children of the pioneer families moving to the west. Also, Puyallup's hop crop was booming. This and a stave (strips of wood that make a barrel) factory attracted many families to Puyallup.

In February 1885, a vote was taken calling for the building of a school. According to the "Puyallup Notes" section of the Tacoma Ledger, "The children suffered very much in the old log schoolhouse during the recent cold weather. People hesitate to settle here because of the poor condition of our school buildings. Something ought to be done at once." The result was the building of Central School, which cost the town \$3,035. The Karshner Museum stands today where Central School was built. About 305 first- through eighth-grade students were the first to attend.

By 1891, settlers were flocking to Puyallup, having heard that it was a thriving agricultural center, and that it had a new "state-of-the-art" school. Central School began the 1889-90 school year with four classrooms:

- First grade taught by Miss Ankrom had 82 pupils.
- Second grade taught by Miss Lacey had 69 pupils.
- Third and fourth grades taught by Miss Addie Hubbard had 67 pupils.
- Fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades were together taught by Professor Dresbach and his wife, and had 87 pupils.

With such overcrowded classrooms, two new schools were planned: Maplewood and Spinning elementary schools.

Since then, the Puyallup School District has continued to grow. More than 150 years later, the district is home to 22 elementary schools, seven junior high schools, three high schools, and one alternative high school.

For more information about the district visit:

[www.puyallupsd.org](http://www.puyallupsd.org)



For more information about the Puyallup School District visit ...

[Our Superintendent Search](#)

Puyallup School District Information on:

[Strategic Plan – Cultivating Potential. Empowering Achievement.](#)

[Student Demographics](#)

[Budget Restoration](#)

[Long-range planning](#)

[Latest News](#)

[District Publications \(digital community magazine\)](#)

[Guide for Interested School Board Members](#)

[OSPI Report Card](#)

[School Board Overview](#)



## Challenges & Opportunities

- Develop and actively lead the articulation of a clear and motivating educational vision for the district that can be shared and supported by all patrons.
- Addressing the continuing financial and funding challenges of the district at the local and state levels, and develop a district plan to minimize annual impacts to student learning, student offerings, and staffing.
- Establishing valued and trusting relationships with community patrons and stakeholders to effectively acquire consistent financial support through local bond and levy propositions.
- Developing a comprehensive, effective system of engaging communications with staff, parents and community that provides relevant and timely information.
- Support completion of the district's initiatives regarding "Budget Restoration" and "Long-range Planning" and develop comprehensive plans to address each initiative.
- Establishing open rapport and trusting relationships with all levels of staff and associations, which is built on integrity, openness, and honesty, in order to develop a team approach to the student and staff learning success.
- Address continued student growth and aging buildings throughout the district through bond initiatives, and lead effective facilities planning for the subsequent program appropriate facilities needs of all students.



## Professional Qualifications

- A person who leads with a sincere passion and love for kids and their learning, and who genuinely places students first in all decision-making.
- A person who is a visible, interpersonal leader who has charisma, character, and presence as the superintendent of the district.
- A person who has comprehensive command of the finance, budgeting, and fiscal components of the district.
- A person who can lead students, parents, staff, and community in enhancing the district as a prominent, highly effective learning organization.
- A person who has a passion for equity and providing resources that promotes the educational success for all students.
- A person who can promote the ongoing financial sustainability of the Puyallup School District through budget restoration, effective accountability and business practices, and through short and long-term financial planning.
- A person with a proven record of successful administrative leadership, who has the ability to grasp and understand the complexity of leading and managing a large school district.
- A person who is an excellent, transparent communicator who possesses the skills to engage all stakeholders.
- A person who is an excellent listener and collaborator who can effectively navigate and work with the wide variety of groups within the district in meeting district goals and initiatives.
- A person who possesses a comprehensive understanding of the educational needs of all students, and who can maximize the effectiveness of people and resources.
- A person who can develop and maintain a unified, collaborative leadership team that, in turn, will develop comprehensive systems to support success for the district's schools, staff, and students.
- A person who can understand and facilitate a system of obtaining and preserving qualified, knowledgeable faculty and staff who are aligned with their roles and responsibilities.

### Board Members

**Maddie Names**, *President, Position #1*,

Term: 2021-2025 , Serving since 2017

**Gretchen Miles**, *Vice President, Position #3*,

Term: 2023-2027, Serving since 2023

**Joseph Romero**, *WIAA Representative, Position #2*

Term: 2023-2027, Serving since 2019

**David Berg**, *Legislative Representative, Position #4*

Term: 2021-2025, Serving since 2021

**Shannon Burch**, *Legislative Representative, Position #5*

Term: 2023-2027, Serving since 2023

### Compensation

The School Board will negotiate a three-year contract with the salary commensurate with comparable school districts in the region. It is preferred that the superintendent live in the district and be an active member of the community.



## Application Packet

A completed application packet should include the following:

- A formal letter of application
- A completed application form (request from Laurel Browning, Mark Venn, or Tom Rockefeller)
- A current resume
- Three to five letters of recommendation
- A written one page statement explaining how you plan to address each of the leadership opportunities and challenges noted in this vacancy announcement

Send an electronic copy of all application materials to:  
Joel Aune, Consultant/President: [gunderaune@gmail.com](mailto:gunderaune@gmail.com)  
Mark Venn, Consultant: [markjvenn@gmail.com](mailto:markjvenn@gmail.com)  
Laurel Browning, Consultant: [lwbrowning7@gmail.com](mailto:lwbrowning7@gmail.com)  
Tom Rockefeller, Consultant/COO: [rockefeller.tom34@gmail.com](mailto:rockefeller.tom34@gmail.com)  
and [trockefeller@superintendentsearch.com](mailto:trockefeller@superintendentsearch.com)

**Applications received by February 11, 2026 will receive first consideration**  
The District reserves the right to accept applications until a superintendent is  
selected

Application materials will become property of NWLA and the district, and will not be returned to the applicant

Please do not contact the school district directly regarding the selection process for this position.

All inquiries, including those from applicants with disabilities who need help in completing application  
materials, should be made to the following NWLA Associates

Joel Aune | Email: [gunderaune@gmail.com](mailto:gunderaune@gmail.com)

Northwest Leadership Associates | [gunderaune@gmail.com](mailto:gunderaune@gmail.com) [gunderaune@superintendentsearch.com](mailto:gunderaune@superintendentsearch.com) |  
Richland, WA 99352 US

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