

ACTION ITEM MEMO

Port of Tacoma Commission



Item No: 6D
Meeting Date: 10/20/26

DATE: October 8, 2026

TO: Port of Tacoma Commission

FROM: Eric Johnson, Executive Director
Sponsor: Sean Eagan, Director of Government and Community Affairs
Project Manager: Sean Eagan, Director of Government and Community Affairs

SUBJECT: Tacoma Public Schools Jobs 253 ILA Authorization

A. ACTION REQUESTED

Request authorization for the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Tacoma Public Schools for workforce training for the period of January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2029.

Strategic Plan Initiative WD 2: Partner with government and local and regional organizations to facilitate career development through financial investments.

B. BACKGROUND

In February 2022, the Port of Tacoma Commission adopted Resolution 2022-03-PT, in which it found that workforce development is critical to achieving the Port's primary mission to serve as an economic development agency generating quality, family-wage jobs and economic growth for the region and increasing operational efficiency and economic mobility. Later that year, in August, the Commission adopted a Workforce Development Strategy. The Commission subsequently updated its strategy in May 2026.

The Port of Tacoma has supported Summer Jobs 253 financially for three years via an Interlocal agreement with Tacoma Public Schools (TPS). The existing funding agreement expired in September 2026. With this agreement, the Port's financial investment would expand to a year-long program, with training activities during the school year designed as the pathways to the Maritime 253 Skills Center.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

In return for Port funding of \$80,000 annually for three years, TPS will deliver measurable, reportable outcomes in occupational job training and occupational education programs associated with maritime, logistics, manufacturing, and/or the construction trades and in full compliance with RCW 53.08.245(2)(c).

TPS will provide 120 completed training experiences to students each year, for a total of 360 completed experiences over three years. This will include school-based learning for

approximately 80 students per year, and summer training experiences for approximately 40 students per year.

TPS will provide annual quantitative reports for the Port detailing the work provided under the scope of this Agreement, including:

- Students served and completion rate
- Internship and work-based learning completions
- Summer occupational education and training completions
- Total work and training hours
- Credentials, certifications, licenses, and recognized skills earned
- Participating employers and Port-aligned industry sectors
- Regional participation and geographic reach
- Port investment in stipends, training, credentialing, equipment, transportation and direct student supports
- Known next step outcomes, including continued education, work-based learning, apprenticeship, postsecondary training, or employment

D. TIMEFRAME/PROJECT SCHEDULE

The agreement is for the period of January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2029.

E. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Cost: This agreement investment is \$80,000 per year for three years, for a total of \$240,000.

The Port has budgeted \$80,000 in 2027 for this Interlocal Agreement.

Source of Funds: Funding for the contract would come from the operating budget, Outside Services Performed, Government and Community Affairs.

F. ECONOMIC INVESTMENT / JOB CREATION

Annually, 120 completed training experiences will be provided each year, for a total of 360 completed experiences over three years. This will include school-based learning for approximately 80 students per year, and summer training experiences for approximately 40 students per year.

G. ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS

Alternative 1: Preferred alternative. Enter an Interlocal Agreement with Tacoma Public Schools for year-round internships, paid work-based learning, occupational education, industry training, and credentialed opportunities.

Alternative 2: Continue to fund Summer Job 253 at the \$30,000 annual level previously invested. Earlier this year, The Northwest Seaport Alliance intended to invest \$50,000 annually to assist the expansion of the summer credentialed program to support the pathways to the Maritime 253 Skills Center. Commission input received by staff was that support for this program should lie with the homeport.

Alternative 3: No Action. The Port of Tacoma could eliminate the support of the Jobs 253 program; however, this would be inconsistent with the Commission adopted Workforce Development Strategic Plan and fail to advance Strategic Plan Goal WD-2.

H. **NEXT STEPS**

Pending approval by the Commission, the Executive Director will sign the Interlocal Agreement. Tacoma Public Schools would then take the agreement to the Tacoma Public Schools Board for their approval, and support for the Jobs 253 year-round program would begin in January 2027. Port staff will keep the Commission informed of developments throughout this agreement.