

Item: 6B

Date: 5/7/26

Interlocal Agreement #4

Supporting Maritime Education and Training at Maritime 253

Alisa Praskovich

Chief, External Strategy Officer

Port of Tacoma Commission Meeting

Date: May 7, 2026



Action Requested

Request authorization for the Executive Director to enter into a fourth Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the Tacoma School District and the Port of Tacoma to provide guidelines and a governing framework for how the Port may provide resources, support activities, instruction and training to Maritime 253 staff and students to enhance learning and support certification in maritime industry-related fields.

- WD-1: Identify opportunities to utilize Port-owned properties in partnership with local and regional organizations to facilitate maritime industry career development
- WD-2: Partner with government and local and regional organizations to facilitate career development through financial investments
- WD-4: Promote awareness of career pathways in the maritime trades

Background

Tacoma School District (TSD) will take delivery of the Maritime Skills Center May 21st, and school opens September 8th.

Maritime 253 will initially have four technical pathways: Sustainability, Technology, Port Operations and Logistics and Advanced Maritime Manufacturing.

The Port of Tacoma will take occupancy of the Business Center on December 15th and full move-in is expected by March 30th 2027.



The Port Maritime Center, as a shared campus, will serve to create synergies and shared education and training opportunities.

TSD has amassed an incredible number of industry and community partners over the last two years that will further enrich the student's experience at Maritime 253.

As the Port Maritime Center construction phase will conclude by late 2026, the focus between TSD and Port of Tacoma will concentrate on workforce development.

Background Continued



ILA #4 will provide a governing framework for how the Port may provide resources, support activities, instruction and training to Maritime 253.

This could include guest speakers, site visits, curriculum development, career fairs, etc.

TSD and the Port will designate a liaison for formal coordination to ensure activities carried out pursuant to the ILA.

Port Maritime Center – April 2026



Maritime 253 Industry & Community Partners



- Port of Tacoma
- City of Tacoma
- Tacoma Pierce County Chamber
- Pierce County Building and Construction Trades Council
- Career Connect Washington
- Northwest Seaport Alliance
- Association of General Contractors
- Workforce Central
- Macmillan Piper
- TOTE Maritime
- Motive Power Marine
- Maritime Blue
- TOTE Maritime
- Youth Marine Foundation
- Foss Maritime
- Association for Career & Technical Education (ACTE)
- Seafarers International Union (SIU)
- The Northwest Maritime Center
- Safe Boats
- Tacoma Boat Builders
- Youth Maritime Collaborative
- Tacoma Propeller Club
- Transportation Club (Tacoma)
- Getting Smart
- Communities for a Healthy Bay
- Washington STEM
- MITAGS
- Tacoma Rail
- Washington State Skill Center Association
- Manufacturing Industrial Council



Each Party will bear its own costs and control its own manner of financing. Each Party will establish and maintain a budget for the activities contemplated in the ILA.

Maritime 253 will employ approximately twenty full-time staff and serve up to 300 students per session (two per weekday) on site.

As of April 2026, there are 260 students enrolled, and [9] member school districts.

Students are to receive industry recognized credentials preparing them for employment in the maritime and logistics industries.

- Continue supporting Maritime 253 enrollment – “This is Maritime” campaign
- Designate a Port of Tacoma Liaison for formal coordination
- Support all efforts to ensure Maritime 253 opens as planned 9/8/26

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Thank You

Questions & Discussion



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