



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Joint Use Interlocal Agreement Approved by Both PSD and PenMet Parks**

Gig Harbor, WA – The Peninsula School District (PSD) and the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District (PenMet Parks) cooperatively developed an interlocal agreement, which both Boards of Directors approved at their respective meetings last night.

This partnership allows PSD and PenMet Parks to work together jointly to increase community use and development of our local facilities and open spaces. Both agencies will be able to provide more cost effective educational and recreational programs by maximizing the public's utilization of facilities and improving our efficiencies. This partnership also advances our shared goals and strategic direction.

“Our students and families win when we form strong community partnerships,” said PSD Superintendent Krestin Bahr. “During my time at Tacoma Public Schools, we worked closely with Tacoma Metropolitan Parks. I am looking forward to forming a similarly successful partnership with PenMet Parks, to enhance educational and recreational opportunities for children while streamlining our processes.”

The partnership supports goals related to incorporating inclusion for all ages and abilities, especially for people furthest from health and wellness opportunities, and maximizing community use of public facilities owned by PenMet Parks and PSD. Some examples for additional programming considerations are after school youth sports, outdoor education, swim lessons and aquatics recreation, camps and programs after school, during breaks, and in the summer.

“The 2023 State of Play report for Tacoma-Pierce County revealed only 26% of youth in our community meet the CDC’s recommendation of 60 minutes of daily physical activity,” said PenMet Parks Executive Director Ally Bujacich. “This partnership will create more access to recreation and physical activity opportunities for children by mutually prioritizing each agency’s use of facilities.”

The agreement goes into effect on July 1, but no immediate changes are planned to current facilities reservation processes or fees. PenMet Parks and PSD will launch a mobile recreation program at three elementary schools this summer, with additional programs to launch in 2025 and beyond. A community ceremony celebrating the partnership is planned for August 6 at Artondale Elementary.

[Link to the interlocal agreement.](#)  
[Link to FAQ about the partnership.](#)