



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Ferndale School District

Mailing Address:
6041 Vista Dr, PO Box 698
Ferndale, WA 98248

Contact:
(360) 383-9200
<https://www.ferndalesd.org>

Organization's General Goals:

Centered around growth and continual improvement, we embrace learner variability, remove barriers, and create inclusive environments. We ensure all children have access to meet rigorous and relevant standards to be future ready.

Date of Award: 2024 Q3
Level: \$2,501 to \$5,000

For more information, please read the attached report from Ferndale School District.

8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip, WA 98271
TulalipCares.org

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AUG 18 2025



August 6, 2025

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions
8802 27th Ave NE
Tulalip WA 98271-9694

RE: Ferndale School District - Lummi Language Expansion Q3 2024 14.2

Project Title: Expansion of Lummi Language Instruction at Beach Elementary and Districtwide Cultural Inclusion Efforts

Grant Report to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions

Summary of Use of Funds:

The Ferndale School District is deeply grateful for the generous support from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Contributions program. Your investment has played a critical role in our district's ongoing efforts to expand access to culturally inclusive education for Native American students, particularly those of Lummi origin.

Funds awarded were designated to support Lummi Language instruction at Beach Elementary during the 2024–2025 school year. Beach Elementary, which currently serves 30 students, including many from Lummi Island and of Lummi heritage, is a priority site for expanding tribal language and cultural programming.

Program Update & Implementation Status:

Despite our strategic planning and funding, the district experienced a shortage of qualified teaching staff, which impacted the ability to provide consistent, on-site Lummi Language instruction at Beach Elementary as originally intended. While we were unable to secure a Lummi Language teacher to serve Beach Elementary on a regular basis during this school year, we remained committed to providing meaningful cultural experiences for our Native students.

In response, the Ferndale School District successfully leveraged the strength of our Cheskwin Club (high school) and Kwechost Club (middle school), two student leadership and cultural mentoring programs. These students served as mentors to Beach Elementary students, visiting the school to work on traditional regalia and cultural projects such as making vests, dresses, and ceremonial garments. These intergenerational connections provided powerful opportunities for cultural learning, identity-building, and pride in heritage.

Impact Highlights:

Mentorship Model: High school and middle school Native students served as role models and cultural mentors to younger students, fostering a sense of belonging, connection, and leadership.

Hands-On Learning: Beach students had the opportunity to engage in the creation of traditional items, deepening their understanding of Lummi traditions and identity.

Cultural Continuity: Though formal language instruction was limited this year, cultural engagement remained strong thanks to the creativity and commitment of our Native student leaders and advisors.

Ongoing Commitment:

The Ferndale School District remains deeply committed to expanding Lummi Language instruction districtwide. Our goal is to fully staff our program and ensure all 10 schools, including Beach Elementary, receive consistent and high-quality tribal language instruction.

We also continue to:

Expand the Since Time Immemorial curriculum across all grade levels

Maintain close partnership with the Lummi Nation through education planning, and data sharing initiatives

Evaluate program impact through student outcome data, including academic performance and engagement

Looking Ahead:

While staffing challenges limited formal language instruction at Beach Elementary this year, we are actively working to secure a dedicated Lummi Language instructor to serve the school on a consistent basis. Our goal is to implement regular instruction beginning in Fall 2025, ensuring that all students at Beach Elementary, and across the Ferndale School District, have the opportunity to engage deeply with both the Lummi Language and Since Time Immemorial curriculum.

Your gracious gift has helped us begin this important process. It has laid the groundwork for expanding tribal language and cultural education to every school in our district, reinforcing our commitment to equity, inclusion, and educational experiences that reflect and honor the heritage of our Native students.

Creating a strong sense of belonging and celebrating cultural identity remains at the heart of our mission. We are deeply grateful for your support as we continue this journey in partnership with the Lummi Nation and with communities like yours who recognize the power of cultural connection in education.

While this year presented challenges in staffing, your generous support still made a meaningful impact on our Native American students, particularly at Beach Elementary, through innovative and community-centered cultural mentorship. We are inspired by the resilience of our students and grateful for the opportunity to continue building a district where every Native student feels seen, valued, and connected to their heritage. Bringing Lummi Language instruction to Beach Elementary this fall remains a top priority for the Ferndale School District.

Please find attached photos below:





On behalf of the Ferndale School District, thank you for your generosity and commitment to preserving and expanding Lummi Language instruction, and for helping us continue to honor, celebrate, and share Native American heritage with our students and community.

Gratefully,

Ferndale School District