

*An Invitation to Apply for the Position of  
Superintendent*

# TOUTLE LAKE SCHOOL DISTRICT



Toutle, Washington

## The Position

The **Toutle Lake School District, Toutle, Washington**, Board of Directors, is seeking a highly qualified **Superintendent**. The Board wishes to have the successful candidate assume the responsibilities of the position **July 1, 2024**.

McPherson & Jacobson, L.L.C., Executive Recruitment and Development has been engaged as the consultant in a search for outstanding candidates. They will assist the Board of Directors in identifying and screening the candidates.

### The Qualifications

The candidate must have the background, skills, and abilities essential for excellence in educational leadership. The Board recognizes that selecting a superintendent is one of the most important decisions it will make.

- Our next superintendent is a student-centered instructional leader, committed to developing and nurturing abundant educational opportunities for every student.
- Our next superintendent is an effective communicator, who listens to understand, and is intent on engaging all stakeholders in the community.
- Our next superintendent is highly visible and approachable, actively and eagerly participating in all aspects of the school district and community.
- Our next superintendent is passionate about the important role public schools play in rural communities and the many unique advantages rural life provides.
- Our next superintendent is a self-motivated, enthusiastic leader who inspires others to excellence. The superintendent understands the need to develop a shared vision to guide the district.

## The Community

The community of Toutle is located in Southwest Washington, near Mt. St. Helens. The Johnston Ridge Observatory is 42 miles to the east, and the Science and Learning Center at Coldwater is just 35 miles to the east. We are located just ten miles off Interstate 5, Exit 49, on the Spirit Lake Memorial Highway. From this beautiful rural setting, the Cascade Mountains, the Pacific Ocean, and the cities of Olympia, Seattle and Portland are all within a two-hour drive.

There is a plethora of outdoor activities in the area, including hiking, camping, dirt bike racing, fishing, hunting, nature viewing, picnicking, water activities and bicycling. Each summer the Longview Rotary Club sponsors the Tour de Blast, a bicycle ride into the heart of the Mount St. Helens blast zone. The ride begins at Toutle Lake High School, winding its way up the Toutle Valley into the Mt. St. Helens blast zone to the Johnston Ridge Viewpoint. There is also a series of race tracks just to the east of town called Riverdale Raceway, which features year-round racing and provides a ton of fun for the racing enthusiasts.

## Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of five members, elected to serve four-year terms. The incumbency of the members ranges from newly elected to 4 years.

Name	Occupation	Years Served
Sherry Schwinn	Retired	Since 2019
Janell Wheatley	Teacher	Since 2019
Lisa Mathes	Teacher	Since 2021
Susan Dorcheus	School Nursing Assistant	Newly Elected
Heather Schoonover	Nurse	Newly Elected





# The District

The Toutle Lake School District is a small (227 square miles), rural school district serving approximately 700 K-12 students. Our K-12 campus is located in Toutle, WA within Cowlitz County. The community of Toutle has a population of about 1,244 people, with the population of the entire school district being approximately 3,200. The school district is without question the “hub of the community” and enjoys the support of our caring and close-knit community.

Our district operates one elementary school and one junior-senior high school. We have three administrators – one superintendent and two principals. We employ 90 staff members. The staff is a talented and committed group of individuals who are proud of the outstanding traditions and reputation of Toutle Lake School District. Staff members have high expectations for student achievement, appropriate behavior, and a demonstration of responsibility on the part of all participants. The focus is on curriculum and activities that prepare students to meet state learning goals, achieve academic standards beyond high school, and become positive contributors to our society.



We partner with ESD 112 Specialized Education ESA as do many other school districts in the State of Washington. The ESA is governed by an elected chair and representative five-member executive advisory committee comprised of participating districts’ superintendents. Although districts agree to pool their fiscal resources and share in staff, materials and resources; all members receive services based on needs, not a pro rata portion of their contributions. All member districts, regardless of size or rural location, have equal access to all services.

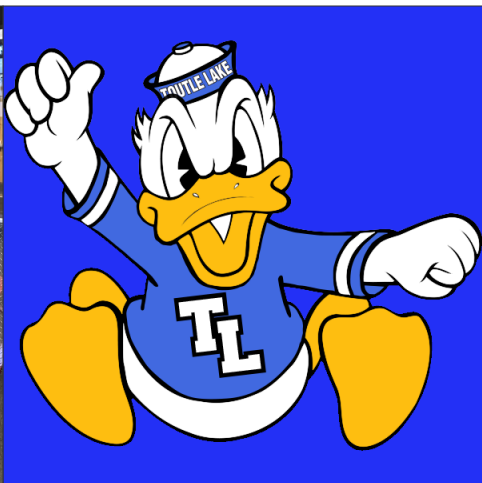
Our high school has an interlocal agreement with Central Washington University allowing our eligible students to achieve dual credit in three of our English courses, four of our math courses and one of our robotics classes. We also have a partnership with Lower Columbia College in Longview, WA (approximately 25 miles southwest of Toutle), where eligible juniors and seniors can participate in the Running Start Program.

We have a very active FFA program, robotics program and hiking club to name a few of our extracurricular programs. Our athletic teams are members of the extremely competitive Central 2B League. Our volleyball team participated in the State tournament this fall, and our baseball team was District champs this last spring. Most of our programs have incredible support from our community.

The District has an operating budget of \$12,272,484 and an assessed valuation of approximately \$600,000,000.



**District Website: <http://toutlesd.org>**



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## APPLICATION

available at  
[www.macnjake.com](http://www.macnjake.com)



An application for superintendent should include:

- ◆ A letter setting forth personal qualifications, experiences and reasons for interest in the position.
- ◆ A current résumé.
- ◆ A completed application form.
- ◆ Reference letters, certificates and licenses, and academic transcripts from colleges/universities indicating degree(s).

Candidates are asked not to directly contact board members. Any effort to do so may eliminate them from consideration. Names of applicants will be held in strict confidence whenever possible; however, McPherson & Jacobson complies with individual states' Freedom of Information laws. In the final process, the school board may visit the district where the candidate is employed, but will not proceed without the knowledge and consent of the candidate.

### ***Selection Time Line***

- ◆ Closing date for applications: **December 18, 2023**
- ◆ Board of Directors selects finalists to interview: **January 9, 2024**
- ◆ Finalists' Interviews with the Board of Directors: **January 16-18, 2024**
- ◆ Selection of new Superintendent: **TBD**
- ◆ Start date: **July 1, 2024**

*Toutle Lake School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The district does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability and, when needed, will provide reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Anyone requesting a reasonable accommodation in the application or recruitment process please contact McPherson & Jacobson at the address/phone/email above.*