



PORTLAND
Public Schools

2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

Portland Public Schools' legislative and funding priorities call for cultivating rigorous, high quality, and joyful academic learning experiences and disrupting racial inequities to create vibrant environments for all students to demonstrate excellence. The 2024 Legislative Agenda is aligned with PPS Board Goals to eliminate student gaps in opportunities and outcomes. Our advocacy priorities will allow us to leverage the District's role as a meaningful member of local, state, and national communities. In addition to the issues identified below, the Office of Government Relations will continue to support and advocate for legislative proposals and initiatives that are consistent with the PPS Strategic Plan and bring more investments to our schools and communities. The Government Relations team will pursue the necessary policy and funding flexibilities in 2024 as new issues arise.

SHORT-SESSION FUNDING PRIORITIES

- \$41 million in additional funding from the State School Fund for the 2023-25 biennium
 - Portland Public Schools faces a budget gap because of the labor contract it signed in fall 2023 with the Portland Association of Teachers. The district will need to identify \$10 million in savings this school year and \$31 million next year. PPS requests \$41 million in funding from the state school fund to help preserve many teaching positions and classroom supports.
- \$50 million for statewide summer 2024 academic programs
 - Many students are still struggling academically, emotionally, and socially in the pandemic. Additional funding from the state can support PPS in offering summer learning opportunities through our summer acceleration academies and school-community partnerships.
- \$22 million for statewide Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education (EI/ECSE) programs
 - These programs provide required services to youth 0-5. Referrals decreased during the pandemic, but with caseloads now increasing, \$22 million is needed to shore up the program.

- \$500,000 for the Prophet Education Center relocation
 - PPS requests a direct \$500,000 allocation to PPS for planning, design, and real estate professional services for Phase 3 Planning of a potential Prophet Educational Center relocation.
- PPS advocates for additional funding to provide robust academic and enrichment programming including instructional specialists and high dosage tutoring.
- PPS advocates for resources and policies that support the emotional and mental health needs of all students, including investments to expand, sustain, and diversify the youth behavioral health workforce.
- PPS advocates for removing the percentage cap (11%) on the amount of funds that are distributed from the State School Fund to school districts for students eligible for special education along with a higher level of funding for special education services.
- PPS advocates for investments in climate-resilient school infrastructure that can support communities during extreme weather events.

SHORT-SESSION POLICY PRIORITIES

- Youth Collaborative: PPS supports legislation that will establish a youth advisory committee, made up of members of each ESD region, at the Department of Education in the Senate Omnibus bill.
- Community Eligibility Provision: PPS supports legislation that requires the Oregon Department of Education to adopt administrative rules that align with a recent federal USDA rule expanding the Community Eligibility Provision, which would increase the number of schools that offer school meals, free of charge, to all students.

LONG-TERM FUNDING AND POLICY PRIORITIES

- PPS will advocate for the Governor and Legislature to review and make structural changes to the state school funding formula to better address the needs of diverse, urban school districts, and support school districts in areas with higher costs of living. PPS will also call upon the state to fully fund the Quality Education Model.
- PPS will call upon the Legislature to increase or remove the statutory limit on local option revenue collections, so that school districts can maintain revenue as their voters intend or explore additional ways to generate revenue without facing a reduction in state school fund dollars.