



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ENROLLMENT AND TRANSFER

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STAFF REPORT

Date: April 2, 2024
To: School Board
From: Don Wolff, Chief Technology Officer
Judy Brennan, Director, Enrollment and Transfer
Subject: 2024-25 Inter-District Transfers

BACKGROUND

Oregon School Boards are required by law to determine annually the standard inter-district transfers procedures for their districts. For the 2024-25 school year, staff recommends a continuation of the following standard inter-district transfer procedures:

1. An unlimited number of non-resident students currently attending PPS schools will be allowed to return to the same schools next year, or to change to a different PPS schools where space is available.
2. An unlimited number of non-resident applicants who have siblings currently attending PPS schools will be allowed to enroll in PPS, if space is available at their requested schools.
3. Up to 100 additional students will be allowed to enroll in PPS, so long as space is available at their requested schools.
4. An unlimited number of students who moved into the PPS district within the last twelve months will be released to continue attending districts where they are currently enrolled.
5. An unlimited number of PPS resident students will be released to other districts where their siblings are currently enrolled.

Standard inter-district transfers into PPS schools will remain in effect through the highest grade of the approved school.

In addition to these standard interdistrict procedures, PPS has partnered with David Douglas, Parkrose and Reynolds school districts to launch a Right to Return transfer opportunity for students to attend North/Northeast Portland schools, in recognition of the generational harmful effects of urban renewal and gentrification.

RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

PPS 4.10.040-P, Inter-District Transfers

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

Overview

Three percent of students who attend PPS schools live in other districts. Most of these students started school as PPS residents and then experienced a family move to a different district. Inter-district transfers are an important tool for providing educational continuity for such students, as well as others seeking specialized programs not available in their home districts.

Students who attend PPS schools and live in other districts are more racially and ethnically diverse than the overall PPS population, as shown in the table below. Furthermore, 49% of PPS students who live in other districts qualify for free meals through direct certification, versus 31% of the overall district population. The rate of Emerging Bilingual (ELL) students who live in other districts and attend PPS schools is 19%, more than twice the district average of 9%.

Table 1: Race/Ethnicity of PPS students living in other districts, compared to district averages

	Asian	Black	Latino	Multiple - Other	Multiple - Asian/ White	Native American	Pacific Islander	White
District Average (44,771)	6%	8%	18%	7%	5%	0%	1%	55%
All Non-PPS Students (1,361)	12%	15%	22%	10%	3%	1%	1%	37%

Source: [PPS Research, Assessment & Accountability](#), October 2023

Demographic information for non-resident students is provided for context only as state law prevents school districts from considering race, home language, economic status, disability or other factors when deciding standard inter-district transfers.

PPS schools with the highest number of non-resident students include charter schools (exempt from the standard inter-district transfer process), high schools with boundaries close to bordering districts, and language immersion programs.

Table 2: 2023-24 Schools and programs with the most students who live in other districts

School or program	Students living in other districts	Percent of total school or program enrollment
Kelly - Russian Immersion	100	69%
McDaniel HS - all programs	69	4%
Franklin HS - all programs	68	4%
Arthur Academy	66	40%
Kairos PDX Charter	65	27%
Benson HS	63	8%
Portland Village School Charter	46	11%
Rose City Pk-Vietnamese Immersion	38	18%
Kellogg - all programs	34	5%
Lincoln - all programs	34	2%

The data above pertains to all PPS students who live in other districts, while the charts below describe the outcome of standard inter-district transfer requests for the 2023-24 school year.

Standard Inter-district Transfers

To date, Enrollment and Transfer staff have processed 443 standard inter-district transfer requests into PPS for the 2023-24 school year, and 192 standard transfers out of PPS to other districts. Of the 143 students who moved out of PPS before the start of the transfer cycle last spring, 95 (66%) returned in the fall through standard inter-district transfers. David Douglas remained the district with the most students applying both in and out of PPS. See the attached [table](#) for comparison to recent years.

Chart 1: 2023-24 Standard Inter-district transfer applications INTO PPS

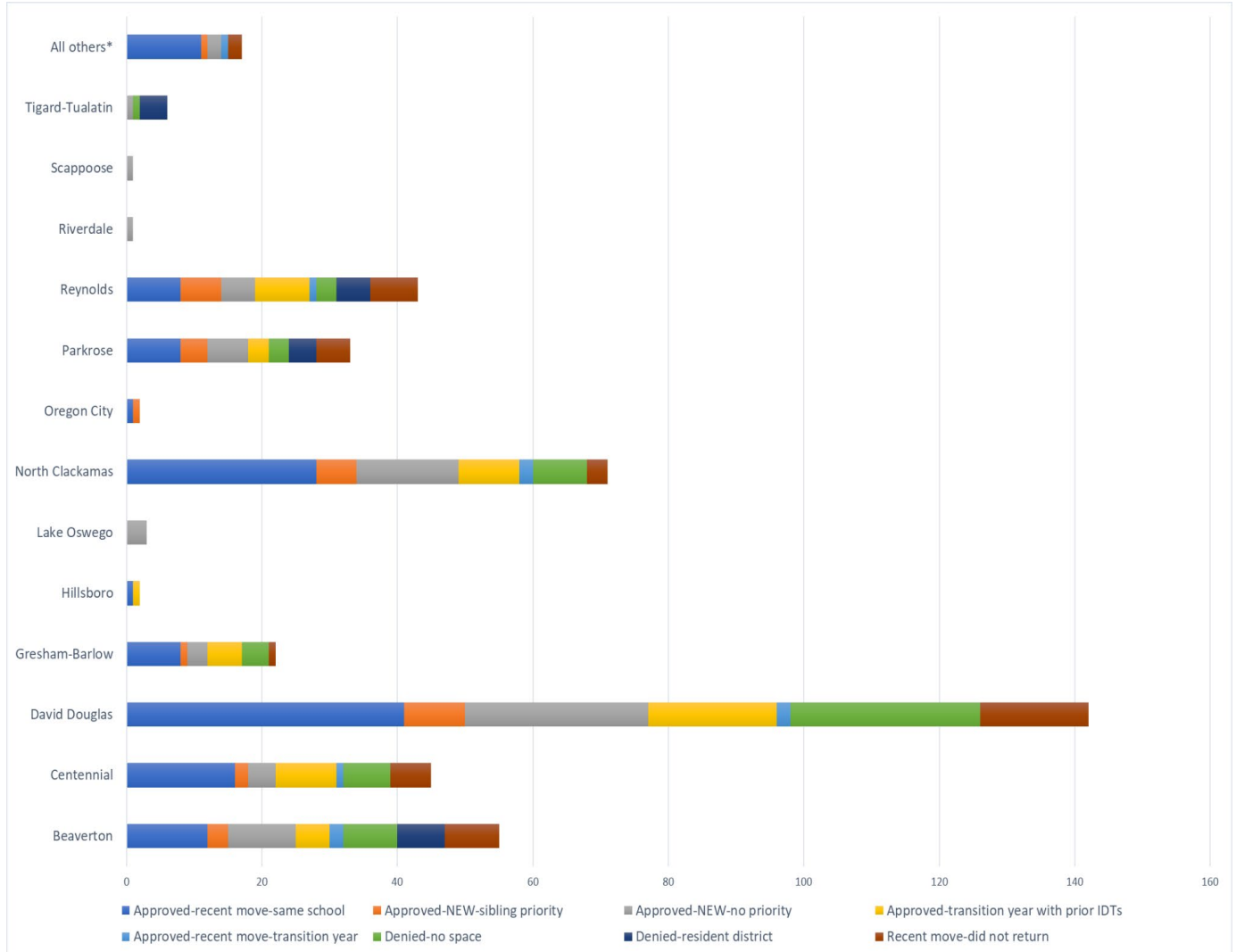
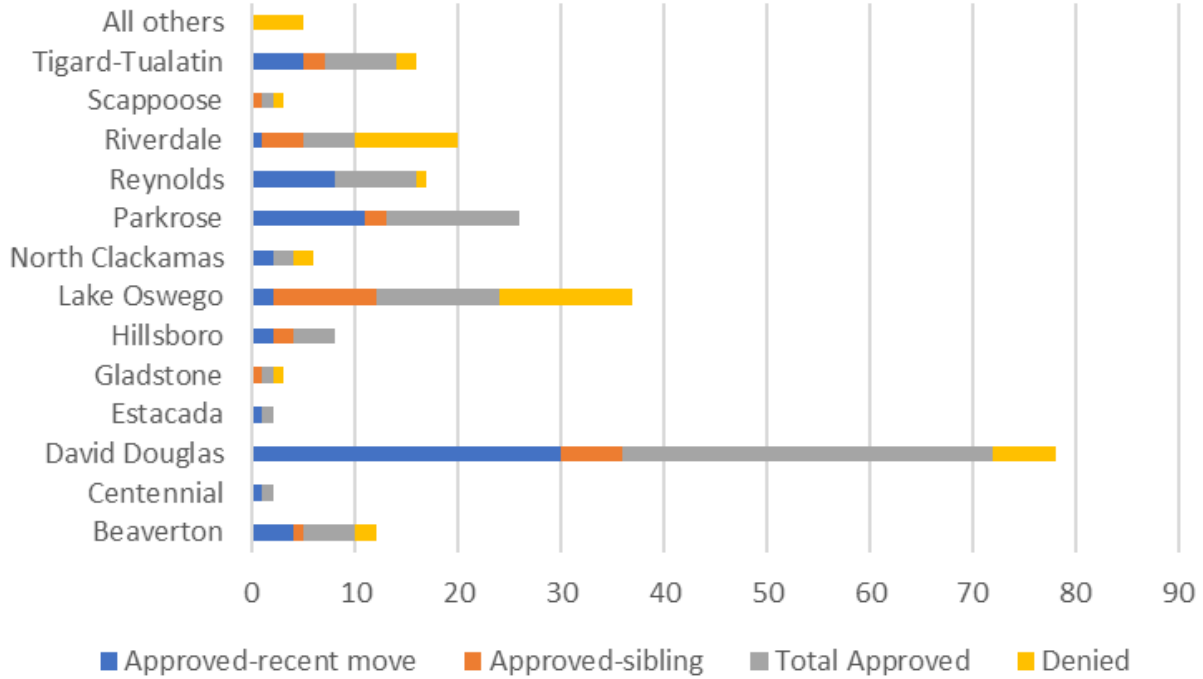


Chart 2: 2023-24 Standard Inter-district transfer applications OUT of PPS



Emergency/Hardship Inter-District Transfers Out of PPS

The Emergency/Hardship Inter-district process provides a way for families who do not meet the standard process criteria to request transfer to a different district. At least two staff from Enrollment and Transfer and a Senior Director of Schools reviews each Emergency/Hardship request. The number of applicants for the 2023-24 school year increased, in part, due to applicants impacted by the closure of the Online Learning Academy seeking a similar program in another district. The criteria for emergency/hardship transfers is very narrow and many requests are denied, particularly if parents have already made arrangements to transfer to other districts without first trying their neighborhood school or other PPS options.

Chart 3: Emergency/Hardship Transfer Applications OUT of PPS

Hardship/Emergency Requests by District	Approved OLA	Approved Other Reason	Approved Total	Denied	Net
Beaverton	11	5	16	4	12
Centennial	0	1	1	0	1
David Douglas	16	12	28	4	24
Estacada	0	0	0	0	0
Gresham-Barlow	0	1	1	0	1
Hillsboro	4	2	6	0	6
Lake Oswego	0	16	16	29	-13
North Clackamas	1	3	4	1	3
Parkrose	0	9	9	3	6
Reynolds	0	0	0	0	0
Riverdale	0	3	3	11	-8
Scappoose	0	2	2	0	2
Tigard-Tualatin	0	1	1	2	-1
WL/Wilsonville	1	0	1	0	1
All others	0	4	4	5	-1
Total	33	59	92	59	33

Right to Return Inter-District Transfers Into PPS

Right to Return is a new enrollment opportunity intended to address some of the harmful impacts of gentrification and urban renewal practices in North/Northeast Portland. Families who were displaced from North/Northeast Portland neighborhoods and now live in the David Douglas, Parkrose or Reynolds school districts can transfer through a single application and enroll in one of nineteen North/Northeast PPS schools, based on space availability.

The program was called for by African-American community leaders and is generally based upon the City of Portland's [North/Northeast housing priority](#). See pps.net/righttoreturn for a list of schools participating in Right to Return for the 2024-25 school year. Once enrolled, students may remain through the highest grade and then move with their cohorts to the neighborhood schools serving the next level.

David Douglas, Parkrose and Reynolds signed onto the agreement in early 2023, and the Right to Return application and [website](#) was launched in April 2023. The information was shared with partner districts, schools located in the Right to Return zone and community partners.

PPS received 24 Right to Return applications between April-September 2023. Eight applications were submitted for students new to their requested school and sixteen were for returning students who met three criteria:

- Enrolled during the 2022-23 school year in a PPS school located in the Right to Return zone;
- Recent move into David Douglas, Parkrose or Reynolds school district; and
- Prior home address in the Right to Return zone.

Of the 24 applications received, all but one were placed at a PPS school in the Right to Return zone. One student was waitlisted due to space limitations at their requested school. The chart below shows the distribution of Right to Return approvals by home district and student race/ethnicity.

Chart 4: 2023-24 Applicants by Home District and Student Race/Ethnicity

HOME DISTRICT	Total Applicants	Applicant Ethnicity/Race		
		Latino	Black	Multiple
David Douglas	9	3	5	1
Parkrose	9	1	7	1
Reynolds	6	2	3	1

It is likely that some of these students would not have received transfers if the program were not in place, as Parkrose and Reynolds denied transfers for other applicants to other PPS schools not eligible for Right to Return. Details by school are included in the Year One summary attached to this report.

The 2024-25 Right to Return application opened on March 18, 2024. We anticipate an increased number of applicants in the coming years as community knowledge spreads about the substantial community and educational investments underway in Albina.

FISCAL IMPACT

State school funds are transferred into or out of PPS for students approved through the standard inter-district transfer process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement typically consists of targeted outreach to families who have moved out of PPS. Information is posted on the Enrollment and Transfer website, and the application is available online and in five supported languages. Student lists are shared with principals, secretaries, and counselors so they can help inform families of the inter-district transfer process.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

March 18:	Right to Return application available
April 2:	PPS Board of Education Standard Inter-District Transfer vote
April 9:	Standard Inter-District transfer applications available
May 19:	Deadline for early notice applications
May 30:	Early notice results provided to districts with May 31 deadlines
June 1-Sept 15:	Rolling decisions and notices continue

BOARD OPTIONS WITH ANALYSIS

The Board could choose to expand or eliminate any of the categories listed in the staff recommendation, including adding or deleting transfers for students who have not experienced recent moves or who are siblings of enrolled students.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends continuation of the following standard inter-district transfer priorities for School Year 2024-25:

Transfer priority for applications INTO PPS	Details
Students enrolled in PPS who move to a different district and wish to remain in their current school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No limit ● Not subject to space availability ● Effective through the highest grade of the current school
Siblings of students enrolled in PPS in 2023-24, who will remain enrolled in 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No limit ● Subject to space availability ● Effective through the highest grade of the new school
Students who live in other districts and are completing their highest grade in a PPS school this year applying for the next school level for 2024-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No limit ● Subject to space availability ● Effective through the highest grade of the new school
New students who do not qualify for above priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited to 100 approvals into all schools ● Subject to space availability ● Effective through the highest grade of the new school
Transfer priority for applications OUT OF PPS	Details
Students enrolled in a different district who move to a PPS address and wish to remain in their current district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No limit ● Transfers good through 12th grade (state law)
Siblings of students enrolled in the requested district in 2023-24, who will remain enrolled in 2023-24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No limit ● Transfers good through 12th grade (state law)

Attachment:

- a. Standard IDT chart
- b. Resolution
- c. Right to Return Year One Report
- d. Right to Return Flier