

Amendment #1 – Draft Preamble

In 2019, Portland Public Schools adopted PPS reImagined, our community curated vision. PPS reImagined serves as the single most comprehensive source of inspiration and direction for PPS. This vision clearly articulates a school system that prepares students to be global stewards, stating unequivocally that “now is the time to bring environmental stewardship, foresight, and an objective, informed view of the world to create a bright, sustainable future for our young people.”

As human-caused climate change impacts our daily lives, we--individuals, institutions and governments--have the responsibility to dismantle flawed environmental policies, practices and norms that have long harmed low-income and communities of color and instead create a sustainable and equitable future that reverses the change in climate. PPS recognizes climate change is a direct result of capitalism, racism, white supremacy and colonialism. We also recognize how this disproportionately affects Black, and Indigenous communities."

Here in Portland, a city known for its spirit of environmental stewardship, progressivism, and activism--frontline communities, activist and community leaders have long demanded that government institutions do their part to address the impacts of climate change. In 2018, the city of Portland passed a historic tax on large retailers, generating money that will be put towards clean energy job training, weatherizing homes and supporting other climate change mitigation efforts; all reserved for communities more likely to suffer the effects of climate change. Since 2016, our students, parents, and partners have called on Portland Public Schools to respond to the climate crisis with urgency while honoring the expertise and lived experiences of those most impacted.

In response to the human-caused climate crisis currently underway and the direct harm being done to our District, society, and planet, Portland Public Schools (PPS) is committing to immediately mobilize resources for climate action.

As a school district, we will be guided by the voices and perspectives of our students, who have long called for us to take action because if we do not act now, there will be unstoppable climate effects that will alter whether this District can continue to serve students. The Graduate Portrait is a clear and ambitious description of what the community wants its students to know, be, and be able to do, in order to prepare them to thrive in their lives and careers, and , outlines a future where students:

- Are optimistic about their future;
- Understand how our communities have been impacted by racial injustice, and they can recognize and interrupt the conditions that enable it.
- Are responsible stewards of the environment and knowledgeable about climate justice issues.

We will also be guided by a recognition that climate justice must deeply examine the ways in which race, class, and access to power and privilege shape the way we experience the impacts of the climate crisis, and our understanding of the problem and solutions. The climate crisis disproportionately impacts low-income communities, frontline communities, Black and Indigenous communities, and other communities of color. Therefore, in order to be true proponents of a climate justice movement, we must center the voices of our students and those who are most impacted in the development of climate justice curricular materials, programs, and operational shifts.

To this end, the District commits to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and minimizing other negative environmental impacts; improving our school communities' health and wellness; and building a culture of learning, responsibility, and sustainability centered on our values of racial equity and climate justice.

Our two overarching objectives are:

Emissions Reduction: The District shall prioritize investment efforts that achieve the greatest emissions reduction and the largest environmental return on investment for immediate action, while integrating climate action into our

curriculum and developing a culture of environmental stewardship and climate justice throughout our organization. Other efforts which have a lower impact on emissions and require major changes in infrastructure can be implemented over the longer term.

PPS will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030, using the 2018-2019 school year baseline, and reach net zero emissions by 2040. These goals, and the 2040 target, are based on the following assumptions: voter will continue to pass bonds on a four-year cycle; the District will allocate general fund budget to help reach these goals; and the local construction industry and contractor pool will have the capacity to support PPS' building decarbonization projects.

Engagement, Resilience, and Wellness:

The District aims to educate and empower students as leaders in the just transition to a sustainable city and restorative society. Our goal is for all students to be environmentally literate and to understand the connections between their daily actions and the natural world by using community-based learning and civic engagement as a context for meeting academic goals described in the Graduate Portrait.

The District will take steps to prepare schools for the effects of climate change; PPS will ensure staff and students learn about and engage in climate solutions, climate resiliency, and climate justice practices.

We will align our work with the U.S. Department of Education's Green Ribbon School Pillars. In accordance with those pillars, PPS is adopting the following goals.