



## PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT & TRANSFER CENTER

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**Date:** March 31, 2021  
**To:** School Board  
**From:** Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations  
Judy Brennan, Director, Enrollment and Transfer  
**Subject:** 2021-22 Inter-District Transfers

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### **BACKGROUND**

State law allows four methods for students to enroll in schools outside of their home districts:

1. Standard inter-district transfers
2. Transfers into Charter schools (exempt from IDT process)
3. Contract transfers, such as into specials schools and Community-Based Organizations
4. Tuition

Most residents of other districts attend PPS through the standard inter-district transfer process, which requires the PPS Board of Directors to determine annually the degree of transfers allowed into and out of PPS.

For the 2021-22 school year, staff recommends a continuation of the priorities now in place, which allow all transfers for students who change districts due to a family move as well as siblings of current students. We also recommend allowing a small number of non-priority transfers into PPS where space is available.

Below are counts of new inter-district transfer requests for the 2020-21 school year:

Inter-district transfer result	Priority Type			
	Current student priority-same school	Current student priority-next school level	Sibling priority	No priority
Approved IN	102	24	41	41
Denied IN	0	3	5	33
Approved OUT	39	n/a	37	0
Denied OUT	0	n/a	0	62

Additionally, nineteen PPS students received permission to transfer to other districts through the emergency/hardship provision, including students with parents who teach in other districts seeking to keep their families on the same distance learning and hybrid learning schedules.

The attached table shows the number of standard inter-district transfers by district for 2020-21 and recent years.

**RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES**

Related Policy: 4.10.040-P, Inter-District Transfers

Last year staff at the Oregon Department of Education began engaging stakeholders on changes to inter-district transfer process, in light of continued displacement of African-American families from their traditional neighborhoods and districts. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, those efforts are on hold.

**ANALYSIS OF SITUATION**

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented disruption to schools, families and communities. In fall 2020, we had 1,463 enrolled students living in other districts, an increase of 7.4% from the prior year. Note that most of these students have already gone through the inter-district transfer process, or are exempt from the process, such as charter school students.

While state law does not allow districts to consider race, ethnicity, program qualifications, family income or other factors when making individual inter-district transfer decisions, we are including information about non-resident students to support more holistic understanding of these decisions.

**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
<b>District Average (47,314)</b>	6%	9%	17%	6%	4%	1%	1%	56%
<b>All Non-PPS Students (1,463)</b>	9%	15%	22%	9%	4%	1%	1%	39%

Additionally, 38% of PPS students who live in other districts qualify for free meals through direct certification, versus 22% of the overall district population.

Most students who attend PPS through the standard inter-district transfer process start as residents, but then move to homes in other districts. Schools with the highest number of non-resident students include charters (exempt from the standard IDT process), high schools with boundaries close to bordering districts, and language immersion programs. This year 27% of non-resident students are enrolled in PPS immersion programs, versus 13% of all students.

**Schools and programs with the highest number of students who live in other districts**

School or program	Students living in other districts	Percent of school or program enrollment
<b>Kelly - Russian Immersion</b>	112	64%
<b>Franklin HS—all programs</b>	67	3%
<b>McDaniels HS—all programs</b>	67	6%
<b>Arthur Academy</b>	61	34%

Grant HS—all programs	47	2%
Benson HS	45	4%
Bridger - Spanish Immersion	37	12%
Kairos PDX Charter	35	16%
Le Monde Charter	33	8%
Rose City Park – Vietnamese Immersion	32	16%
Lane - Russian Immersion	34	69%
Ida B. Wells HS—all programs	30	2%

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Students who enroll through standard inter-district transfers qualify for the same state school funding as resident students.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (IF APPLICABLE)**

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**

April 13 : PPS Board of Education vote (business agenda)

April 19: Applications available

May 15: Deadline for early notice applications

May 29: Early notice results sent to parents and district

June-August: Rolling decisions and notice to families and other districts

### **BOARD OPTIONS WITH ANALYSIS**

The recommended inter-district transfer plan allows students who move to remain in their current PPS schools, even if that school is overcrowded. Denying inter-district transfers for these students will not significantly reduce crowding and will force transition for many historically underserved students. Therefore, we recommend these students be allowed to remain at their current schools, if they receive releases from their resident districts.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends continuation of the following standard inter-district transfer priorities for School Year 2021-22:

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"> <li>• No limit</li> <li>• Not subject to space availability</li> <li>• Effective through the highest grade of the current school</li> </ul>
Siblings of students enrolled in PPS in 2020-21, who will remain enrolled in 2021-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No limit</li> <li>• Subject to space availability</li> <li>• Effective through the highest grade of the new school</li> </ul>
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 2021-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No limit</li> <li>• Subject to space availability</li> <li>• Effective through the highest grade of the new school</li> </ul>
New students who do not qualify for above priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited to 100 at all schools</li> <li>• Subject to space availability</li> <li>• Effective through the highest grade of the new school</li> </ul>
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"> <li>• No limit</li> <li>• Transfers good through 12th grade (state law)</li> </ul>
Siblings of students enrolled in the requested district in 2020-21, who will remain enrolled in 2021-22.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No limit</li> <li>• Transfers good through 12th grade (state law)</li> </ul>

I have reviewed this staff report and concur with the recommendation to the Board.

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**Guadalupe Guerrero**  
**Superintendent**  
**Portland Public Schools**

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**Date**

**ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Inter-district transfer chart