



During the 2021 legislative session, Portland Public Schools will center the district vision and accompanying system shifts in all of its advocacy work. Additionally, PPS will work vigorously with our education coalition partners to ensure that education is prioritized in the coming legislative session.

The policies and priorities outlined in the categories below provide examples of policy which may be discussed during the 2021 Legislative Session. They are not intended to be a comprehensive or exclusionary list of bills or budgets PPS may engage in. Rather, these categories, guided by the five educational system shifts, are meant to serve as a filter through which PPS will approach legislation brought forward in the 2021 Legislative Session.

The PPS 2021 Legislative Agenda is aligned with the five educational system shifts as outlined in the PPS strategic plan for the 2020-21 school year:

- A Connected and Transformative School District
- Racial Equity Aligned Systems, Structures, and Culture
- Cultivating System-Wide Learning and a Diverse Workforce
- Transformative Curriculum and Pedagogy
- A Culture of Physical and Emotional Safety

Funding

System shift connection: all

- PPS will advocate for a \$9.5 billion investment for the State School Fund (SSF), an increase of 5.5% over the last biennium.
- PPS will advocate for revision of the method used to determine the Current Service Level (CSL) formula to more accurately reflect districts' actual costs.
- PPS will advocate to build on the progress the legislature made when they passed the Student Success Act by continuing to center racial equity in school funding decisions.
- PPS will support full funding for the fund for High School Success (Measure 98)
- PPS will advocate to reimburse school districts for all expenses incurred in response to COVID-19, such as PPE, sanitation supplies, hot spots and technology devices.
- PPS supports and will continue to advocate for direct state investment in the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program and Seismic Retrofit Grant Program (SRGP).

Racial Equity in Education

PPS supports and will advocate for legislation and funding to promote improved academic outcomes for every student, especially our Black and Native students and students receiving special education services.

System shift connection: Racial Equity Aligned Systems, Structures and Culture

- PPS will support and advocate to change statutory language to add ability to investigate hate speech incidents as bias crimes.
- PPS will support and advocate for the [Reimagine Oregon education policy agenda](#).
- PPS will advocate for programs that support “grow your own” educator recruitment programs, licensure flexibility and increasing educator diversity.
- PPS will advocate for increased funding for specialized educational support through Regional Programs for students with hearing impairments, vision impairments, autism spectrum disorders, orthopedic impairments, deaf-blindness, and traumatic brain injury.
- PPS will advocate to eliminate the cap on special education services which will result in more robust funding for these services.
- PPS will advocate for increased funding for ODE’s Long Term Care and Treatment program, which supports students receiving services while in day and residential treatment through PPS’s DART program.

Warm, welcoming, safe learning environments

System shift connection: A Culture of Physical and Emotional Safety

- PPS will advocate for continued refinements to sexual misconduct statutes, including advocating for alignment with Title IV requirements to streamline investigations and prioritize student safety.
- PPS will advocate for resources and policies which support the mental health needs of all students, including investments in counseling, social workers, and a community schools approach to directly addressing student needs.
- PPS will advocate for revisions to ODOT’s I-5 Rose Quarter Improvement Project plans to protect student safety, including improved air quality, and respond to the Albina community’s restorative vision.
- PPS will support and advocate for policy proposals that address the climate crisis and promote climate justice, especially when directly relevant to school districts.

School Reopening/Comprehensive Distance Learning

System shift connection: A Connected and Transformative School District

- PPS supports and will advocate for legislative measures that help get students back into the classroom as soon as it is safe to do so.
- PPS supports and will advocate for COVID-19 limited liability protections for school districts.
- PPS supports and will advocate for increased broadband access to ensure that all students have the tools needed to participate in comprehensive distance learning.
- PPS supports measures that alleviate the child care burden on low-income families.

Curriculum Development

System shift connection: Transformative Curriculum and Pedagogy

- PPS will support efforts which seek to enhance civics education, develop antiracist curriculum, and update outdated curriculum.

Operational improvements

System shift connection: A Connected and Transformative School District

- PPS will advocate to eliminate the Custodial Civil Service Board (CCSB), an antiquated statute that singles out PPS and creates barriers to streamlined hiring in our maintenance ranks.