



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENROLLMENT & TRANSFER CENTER

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Date: April 19, 2022
To: School Board
From: Claire Hertz, Deputy Superintendent, Business and Operations
Judy Brennan, Director, Enrollment and Transfer
Subject: 2022-23 Standard Inter-District Transfers

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 the standard inter-district process)
3. Contract transfers, such as into specials schools and Community-Based Organizations
4. Tuition-based transfers

School Boards determine annually the degree of standard inter-district transfers allowed into and out of each district. For the 2022-23 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 remain in effect through the highest grade of the approved school, while all releases out of PPS to remain in effect through 12th grade.

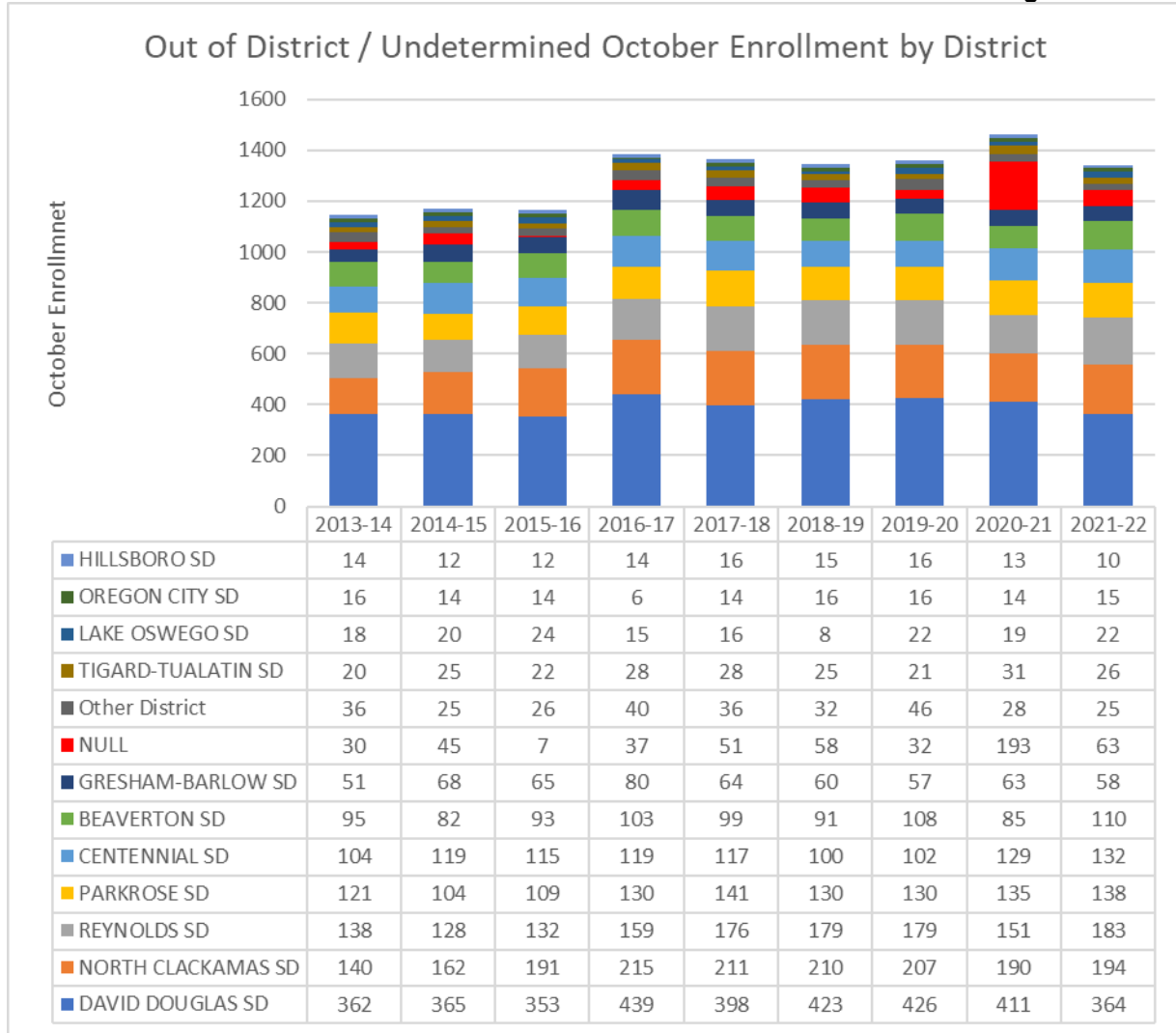
RELATED POLICIES/BEST PRACTICES

PPS 4.10.040-P, Inter-District Transfers

ANALYSIS OF SITUATION

About three percent of PPS students live in other districts. Most are students who began school as residents in our district, but then moved to homes in other districts. Their new home districts are most likely to be on the eastern and southern edges of the PPS boundary:

Chart 1: All students who live in other or undetermined districts 2013-14 through 2021-22



Where possible, priorities for standard inter-district transfers have been aligned with rules governing transfers between PPS schools. For example, PPS has allowed students who moved out of our district to remain enrolled at their current schools, even if those schools are very crowded, to avoid extra transitions that could negatively impact their well-being and academic success. PPS has also given permission to incoming siblings who live in other districts to join their brothers or sisters who are already enrolled here, based on space availability.

School districts cannot consider race, home language, residence and other factors when deciding whether to accept or release students through standard inter-district transfers. PPS staff continue to work with Oregon Department of Education staff to identify more streamlined

ways for students displaced by gentrification to attend Albina neighborhood schools in the historic heart of the African-American community. Staff will provide an update on this work at an upcoming meeting of the PPS Board of Education’s Governmental Affairs Committee. In the meantime, to address this need, as well as fill seats at specialized programs with available space, PPS has given permission to up to one hundred additional students from other district each year.

As a result of these priorities, schools with the highest number of non-resident students include charters (exempt from the standard inter-district transfer process), high schools with boundaries close to bordering districts, and specialized programs.

Table 1: 2021-22 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	84	63%
Franklin HS—all programs	88	4%
McDaniel HS—all programs	84	6%
Arthur Academy	60	38%
Benson HS	55	6%
Kairos PDX Charter	42	19%
Grant HS—all programs	38	2%
Cleveland—all programs	35	2%
Ida B. Wells HS—all programs	35	2%
Le Monde Charter	33	9%
Kellogg—all programs	32	12%
Lane - Russian Immersion	31	76%

Additionally, students who attend PPS schools and live in other districts are more racially and ethnically diverse than the overall population.

Table 2: Race/Ethnicity of PPS students living in other districts, compared to district averages

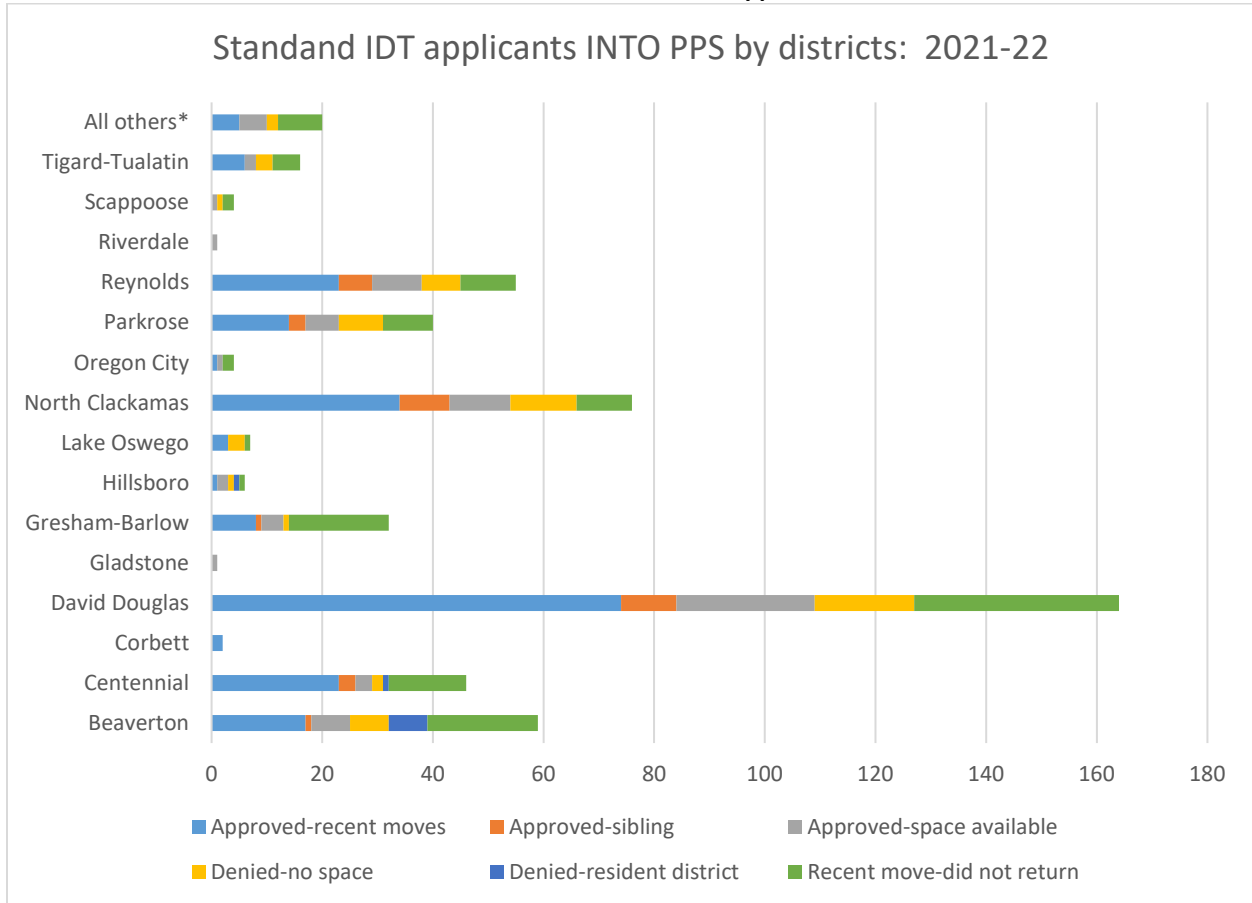
	Asian	Black	Latino	Multiple - Other	Multiple - Asian/ White	Native American	Pacific Islander	White
District Average (45,497)	6%	8.5%	16.7%	6.5%	5.3%	.5%	.7%	55.8%
All Non-PPS Students (1,340)	10.1%	15.5%	21%	9.4%	3.8%	.7%	1.1%	38.5%

Furthermore, 32.5% of PPS students who live in other districts qualify for free meals through direct certification, versus 21.7% of the overall district population. The rate of Emerging Bilingual (ELL) students who live in other districts and attend PPS schools is 18.3%, more than twice the district average of 8.6%.

The data above shows the cumulative impact of all types of transfers into PPS schools across many years. The charts below focus on standard inter-district transactions for only the 2021-22 school year.

Of the 348 students who moved out of our district before the start of the transfer cycle last spring, 211 (60%) returned to their PPS schools in the fall, while 142 (40%) did not return, only 8 of whom were denied by their new districts.

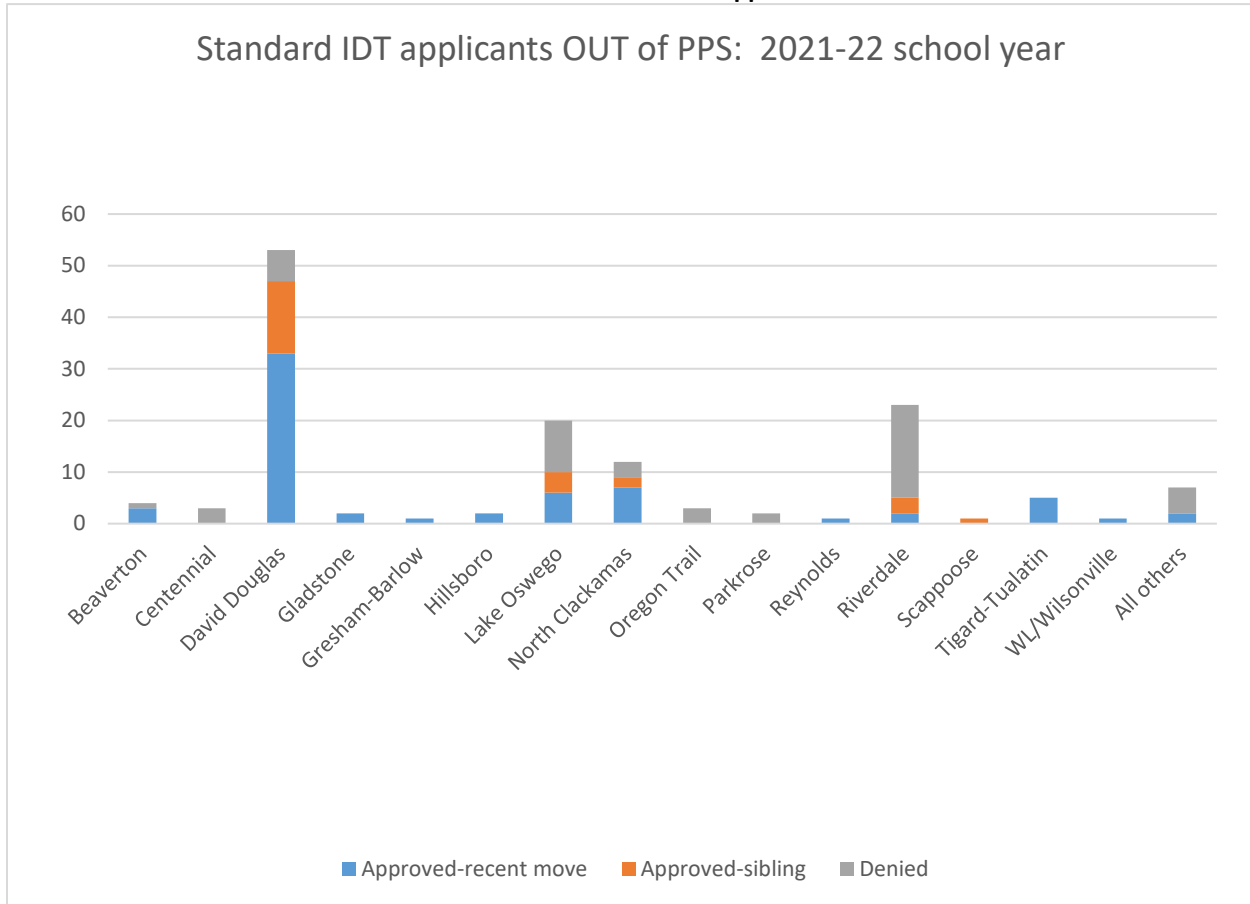
Chart 2: 2021-22 Standard Inter-district transfer applicants into PPS and results



David Douglas remained the district with the most students applying both in and out of PPS. Chart 3 shows that Riverdale School District had the second highest number of requests to transfer out of PPS. Last year PPS did not allow standard inter-district transfers to other districts for students who had not experienced recent moves or were siblings of already-enrolled students, so most requests to Riverdale and Lake Oswego districts were denied.

Several families have asked us to add an additional category of general transfers to other districts. However, as general transfers are not allowed between PPS schools without a hardship reason or to access specialized programming, general transfers out of PPS would not be aligned with district transfer priorities. Therefore, staff has not included a general release category in the 2022-23 recommendation.

Chart 3: 2021-22 Standard Inter-district transfer applicants out of PPS and results

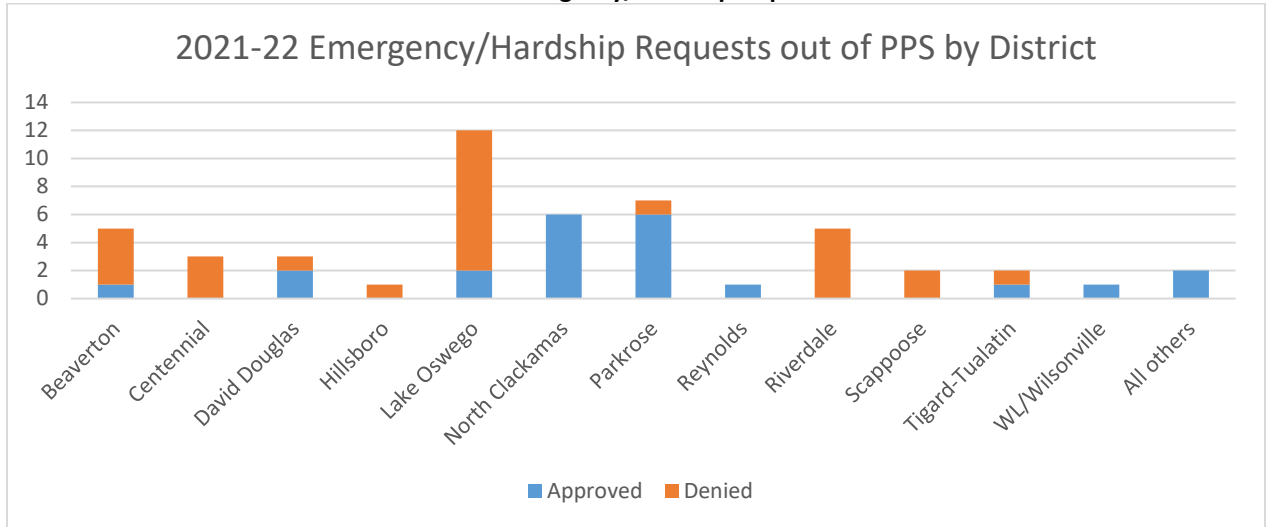


The state statute for standard inter-district transfers does include a provision for transfers that meet the following definition:

- “Emergency to protect the health, safety or welfare of the student” includes but is not limited to sexual assault, threats against a student’s life, or threats of imminent harm.
- “Hardship” means any of the following:
 - The student is impacted by a parent or guardian’s military deployment;
 - The student is experiencing instability related to homelessness or foster care placement;
 - The student has a documented medical condition that necessitates transfer;
 - Death of a student’s parent;
 - The student does not have access to safe and affordable childcare in the resident district; or
 - The student is involved in a documented case of severe harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyberbullying

Chart 4 shows the results of fifty requests for emergency/hardship releases received this school year. For each request, input from school principals and, when appropriate, other educational leaders are gathered, and each request is reviewed by at least three staff members of the Enrollment and Transfer Center and Office of School Performance.

Chart 4: 2021-22 Emergency/hardship requests out of PPS



FISCAL IMPACT

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

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.

This year we have received requests via email and the Let’s Talk app from several families to allow releases of children to other districts who have not recently moved into PPS or have a sibling in their requested district.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION

- April 19: PPS Board of Education vote (business agenda)
- April 25: Applications available
- May 13: Deadline for early notice applications
- May 27: Early notice results sent to parents and district
- June-August: Rolling decisions and notice to families and other districts

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 2022-23:

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 2021-22, who will remain enrolled in 2022-23	<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 2022-23	<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 at 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 2021-22, who will remain enrolled in 2022-23.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No limit • Transfers good through 12th grade (state law)

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

Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent
Portland Public Schools

Date