



Portland Public Schools Focused on What Counts Report on Our Schools 2011



See inside for school upgrades in your Portland neighborhood.

You have a stake in Portland Public Schools. With 47,000 students and 85 schools, PPS is core to every neighborhood. Our schools are your schools.

Here are our latest results — and how we intend to get better, even in a time of tight budgets.

Our goal is to prepare each student with the knowledge and skills he or she needs to succeed in life and help Portland thrive. We're focused on what counts:

- ▶ **High-quality teaching** and leadership in every school.
- ▶ **Well-rounded programs** that are rigorous and relevant, that meet the needs of each learner.
- ▶ **High expectations for results** — a shared belief that every student can achieve.
- ▶ **Modernized learning environments** that help teachers and students do their best work.

We're seeing better results. Students have a longer school year. Student achievement has improved at key grades. More students are on track to graduate. Enrollment is growing as more families choose our schools.

And we know we must do better, especially for students of color.

Our schools — your schools — can't do it alone.

We need, and appreciate, your involvement.

Carole Smith
Portland Public Schools Superintendent

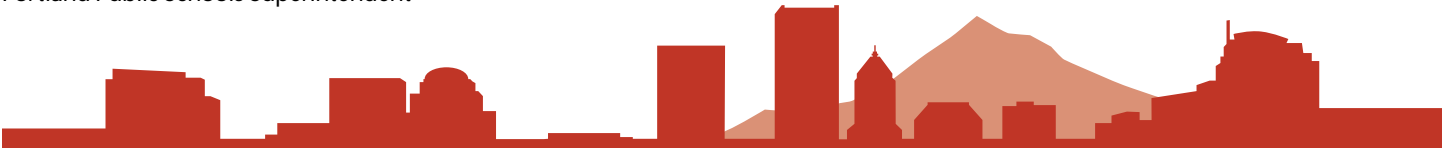
Milestones results for 2009-10

Milestones are specific measures at key grades. They are linked to future student educational success.

	Percent of students meeting milestones	One-year change
Entering first grade ready to read	76%	↑ *6%
Third-graders exceeding reading benchmark	46%	↑ 4%
Seventh-graders meeting writing standard	52%	↓ -3%
Seventh-graders with 90% or better attendance rate	83%	↑ 1%
Eighth-graders passing algebra	57%	↑ 13%
Students entering 10th grade on track to graduate	55%	↑ 4%
Graduation rate (Freshmen earning diploma within four years)	55%	†NA
Graduation rate (Nat'l Center for Education Statistics — one-year rate)	70%	↑ 2%

*Increase over 2007-08, no data collected in 2008-09

†First year of ODE cohort rate.



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Strategies for student success

Good things are happening in every school. But we need to do more to get the best results for every student. Today, in classrooms across Portland Public Schools, educators are using new approaches to boost learning.

Effective teaching

Good teaching is the most important factor in a student's education. Portland Public Schools is taking steps to make sure that students receive teaching that challenges and inspires them, and that prepares them to meet learning standards.

- ▶ Starting this fall, **evidence of student growth will inform the teacher evaluation process.**
- ▶ Student growth is a factor in principal job reviews.
- ▶ Every core subject teacher who joins a low-performing Academic Priority Zone school is now interviewed and hired by mutual agreement with his or her principal.

Fact: We are reforming the 30-year-old teacher review process to support more effective teaching.

Roosevelt HS: Putting teaching first yields results

At Roosevelt High School, Principal Charlene Williams reviews teacher performance using student progress goals, set jointly with teachers. Five teachers coach their peers; they observe classroom teaching and model lessons to help improve instruction. Results: This year, students are doing better in math and English.

"Some of my most valuable strategies have come from my colleagues. Our new approach to evaluation puts the focus on student achievement... With this new process I am getting real, authentic, usable feedback."

— Hallie Gleason, social studies teacher, Roosevelt HS

Well-rounded classes that meet the needs of all learners

Our schools are changing. Educators are focused on delivering well-rounded classes, offering better support to struggling students and challenging students who are ready for more.

- ▶ Students are in school longer. **Recently, schools have lengthened the student year** by using teacher training time more efficiently.
- ▶ All eighth-grade students have access to the rigor of algebra — and the chance to gain high school credits.

Fact: Middle grade students taking and passing algebra rose 13 percent district-wide last year.

Jason Lee K-8: Ready to read and exceed

The path to a diploma and a fulfilling career starts early.

Last fall, at Jason Lee K-8 School, 100 percent of incoming first-graders started school reading at grade level. Many of Lee's students are from low-income and non-English speaking families.

Kindergarten teachers and the school's writing specialist used teamwork, focus and frequent assessment to help students master literacy skills. Across PPS, schools are making sure students gain vital academic skills at the earliest grades.

Fact: At 11 schools this year, more than 90 percent of students entered first grade reading at grade level.

"At Lee, we share the fundamental belief that all our kids will succeed. This belief is the spirit of our school."

— Sascha Perrins, principal, Jason Lee K-8



High expectations

We owe every student the opportunity to achieve his or her full potential. Yet, for too long, our schools have not delivered the same results for students of color and students from low-income families as they have for white and higher-income students.

Today, our schools are raising expectations for students. We are offering more support to struggling students. We are making our results more transparent. Schools are sharing “what works.”

- ▶ Principals are comparing outcomes by school and sharing strategies to get better results.
- ▶ Last summer, 884 students attended free summer schools, including the Early Learners Academy, supported by the Nike School Innovation Fund. Their gains helped students catch up and stand on track through later grades.

Fact: More than 85 percent of Early Learners Academy students gained new literacy skills.

Astor K-8: So much depends on a red folder

Student achievement at North Portland’s Astor K-8 School outpaces results at higher-income schools because educators set high expectations and work together.

Kindergartners are given the same red homework folders that eighth-graders carry. They are told on the first day of school, “You are an author.” Teachers collaborate to connect lesson plans across grade levels and subjects. They use frequent assessments to adapt and focus their instruction.

“Parents and staff have high expectations for students, the moment they walk in the door in kindergarten... We are committed to doing everything we must to ensure that every student is successful.”

— John Walden, principal, Astor K-8

Involving families

Involved parents and caring adults are keys to student success. We’re getting more parents involved at their students’ schools and helping them support their children’s education at home.

Parent Academy

This year, Portland Public Schools launched the Parent Academy — **30 classes on parenting, learning at home, parent leadership, child development and school choice.** Classes are offered free of charge and PPS enrollment is not required. For information on classes go to: www.pps.k12.or.us.

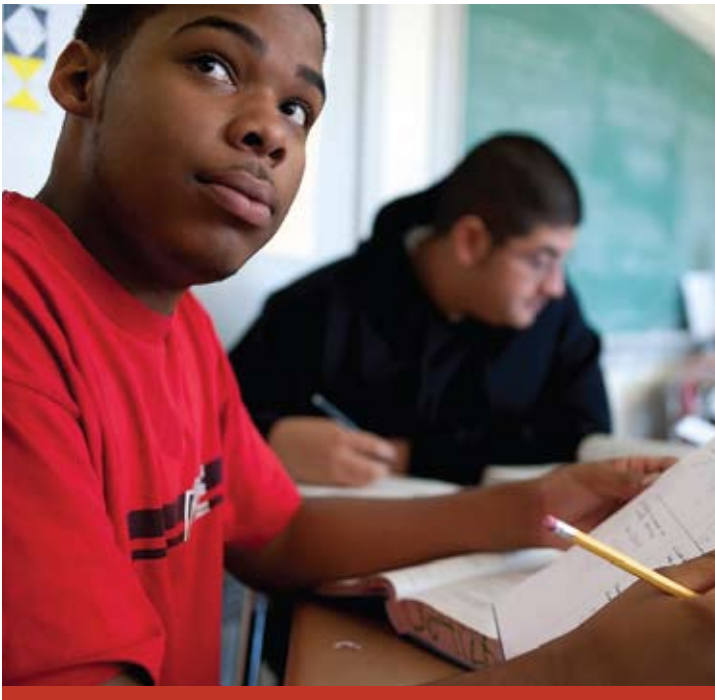
Parent involvement: an academic priority

Highly involved families are a hallmark of high-performing schools. At Academic Priority Zone schools, we are working with community groups to **better engage families:** helping parents support learning at home. Forging stronger connections with teachers and principals. And becoming more active in school decisions.

Online grade book

Heads up students! **Parents can now go online to see homework assignments, grades and attendance reports,** under a pilot program used by more than 300 teachers. Grades will be available online at all middle and high schools next year.





A stronger high school system

Each year, graduates of PPS high schools win prestigious scholarships. Gain admission to the most competitive colleges in the world. Or enter careers that demand highly technical skills.

But for too long, not every neighborhood school has been able to offer well-rounded classes. Graduation rates have been too low, especially for students of color. Our schools have not educated all students equally well.

With input from more than 10,000 Portlanders, we are making changes at our high schools. This fall, high schools will offer students:

- ▶ **Guaranteed access to rigorous, well-rounded classes**, such as world language, art, music and college credits.
- ▶ **Stronger ties to teachers**, to keep students engaged in school.
- ▶ More options to **explore career interests** and advanced studies.
- ▶ The ability to obtain **advanced technical skills** in high-demand fields.

Strong equal programs, close to home

This fall all students will have access to a common, well-rounded core program at their community high school: Cleveland, Franklin, Grant, Lincoln, Madison, Roosevelt or Wilson.

Schools won't have cookie-cutter classes. But students can expect: teachers who know them and encourage their success. More options to individualize their learning, such as online courses. More access to college-going skills and college credits.

This is how we will improve equity. This is how we will open more doors to college and careers. This is how every high school will be a "go-to" school for students and teachers. This is how our high schools will remain anchors of their neighborhoods.

Go to Jefferson. Go to college.

Focus schools — Benson Polytechnic High School, Jefferson High School – Middle College for Advanced Studies and Harriet Tubman Leadership Academy for Young Women — give students a different experience.

Through a partnership with Portland Community College, Jefferson Middle College offers students the chance to earn up to one year of college credit — at no charge — while they earn a high school diploma.

Students can take classes at Jefferson and PCC–Cascade Campus. They can participate in strong Jefferson programs such as Health Sciences/Biotechnology and the Jefferson Dancers. They can play sports and join clubs. Throughout their four years, they receive one-on-one guidance from Jefferson and PCC counselors, and support from Self Enhancement Inc.

Middle College programs are successful in other major cities: Students are more likely to graduate from high school, more likely to enroll in college and more likely to complete college than other students.

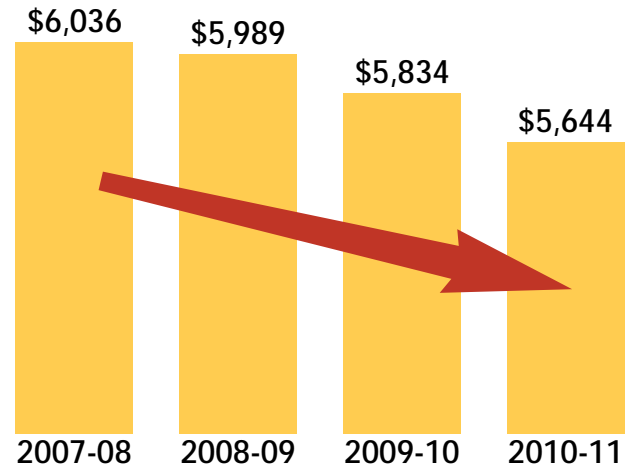
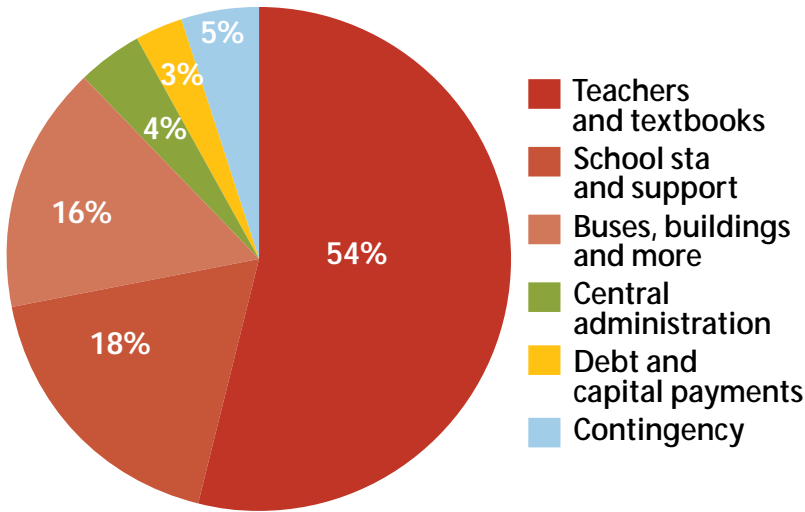
"Students who don't see themselves as going to college realize the possibilities through the Middle College program. I started college as a sophomore."

— Michael Nelson (below), Jefferson Class of 2010



2010-11 General Fund Budget (\$462 million)

Per-student school funding in Oregon (State School Fund formula), 2007-11



Saving costs, focusing on the classroom

Three-quarters of the PPS budget comes from the state of Oregon. But state cuts have taken a toll. So have shifting state budget priorities. K-12 schools now receive less than 39 percent of the state budget, down from 45 percent six years ago.

Portland Public Schools has focused funding where it counts: **75 cents of every dollar goes directly into schools** (for educators and learning materials).

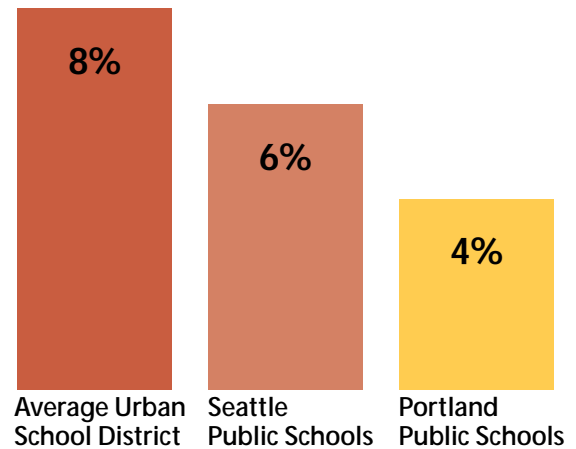
Nearly all the rest pays for school support — such as buses and school building upkeep.

We have repeatedly reduced costs, found efficiencies and stretched limited funding to maximize support to students in the classroom:

- ▶ Teachers have agreed to **no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA)** for the next two years, which will help keep class sizes down.
- ▶ PPS spends 4 cents of every dollar on administration, half of what the average big city school district spends.
- ▶ **PPS staff pay a share of health and retirement benefits**, unlike employees in other public agencies.
- ▶ The district has closed 12 schools in the past 10 years.
- ▶ We have managed reserves, so schools could preserve a full school year in the face of state cuts.
- ▶ The district streamlined bus routes to save more than \$500,000 in transportation costs each year.
- ▶ We increased energy efficiency and reduced water use to save an estimated \$1 million in utility costs.

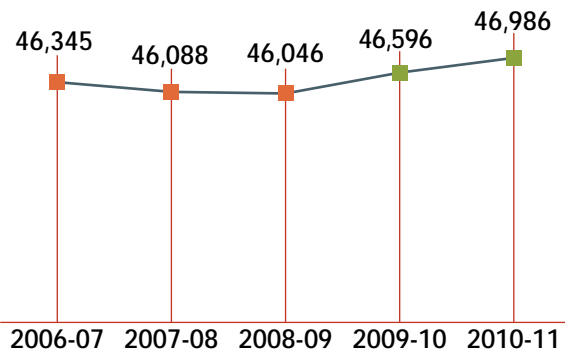
Fact: With a new agreement, teachers will receive no COLA for three of four years. Principals have received no COLA for three of the past four years.

Portland Public Schools spends less on administration



Source: Council of Great City Schools; Seattle Public Schools

PPS student enrollment is rising



Source: Portland Public Schools Enrollment Summaries



Your voice counts

Our schools face important questions this year that will shape the future for our students and our city. Learn about what's happening in our schools. Share your ideas. Tell us about your priorities.

Focused on Portland Schools forums

Learn about our **five-year action plan** to ensure that all students reach learning Milestones, regardless of race or class.

Find out what we have done to contain costs and prioritize our budget. Offer your input. For dates and locations:

www.pps.k12.or.us.

Public tours: See schools from the inside

Tour schools Saturday, April 9: How do school conditions affect learning? Are our schools on par with schools in surrounding communities?

Join principals, custodians and architects as schools across Portland open their doors for an up-close look at building conditions and proposed upgrades. For times, locations and registration: www.pps.k12.or.us.

Free vision and dental exams

Students are eligible for free vision, dental and hearing exams through ViDA (Vision, Dental and Audiometric Program), a collaborative partnership supported by corporate and non-profit partners. More information: www.pps.k12.or.us/vida.

Focused on What Counts, Report on Our Schools 2011

was produced by the PPS Community Involvement and Public Affairs Dept. (pubinfo@pps.k12.or.us).

Portland Public Schools is an equal opportunity educator and employer.

Key Facts

Student enrollment

District schools	42,056
Focus/alternative programs	1,661
Community-based programs	1,288
Special services programs	493
Public charter schools	1,488
Total	46,986

Our students

African American	13%
Asian/Pacific Islander	9%
Hispanic	16%
Native American	1%
White	56%
Multiple/Other	5%
Languages spoken	100
English language learners	10%
Eligible for free/reduced-priced meals	45%
Receive special education services	14%

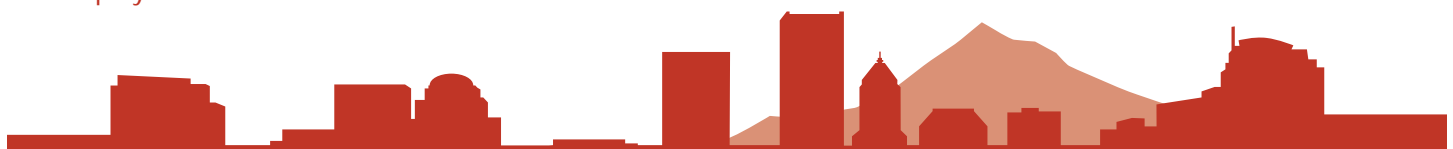
Schools

Elementary	27
K-8 schools	31
Middle schools	10
High schools	15
K-12	1
6-12	1
Total	85

In addition: PPS students attend 7 selected focus/alternative programs, 24 community-based programs, 17 special services programs and 7 charter schools.

Employees

Teachers	2,954
Classified Represented	1,860
Licensed School Administrators	165
Non-Represented	372
Substitutes	1,077
Other	427
Total	6,855



Printing and mailing supported by ViDA program and Premier Press. No classroom funds used.



The volunteer Portland Public Schools Board of Education:

From left, Pam Knowles, board co-chair (Zone 5); Trudy Sargent board co-chair (Zone 6); Ruth Adkins (Zone 1); David Wynde (Zone 2); Bobbie Regan (Zone 3); Martín González (Zone 4); Dilafruz Williams (Zone 7); and Dina Yazdani, student representative.

