



Portland Public High School Design

Increasing student engagement,
achievement and graduation



The charge to the taskforce

The taskforce will be asked to **identify a set of prioritized career focus areas** that PPS should build out or sustain within its high school system.



What we heard last meeting

The career focus area is not as important as the essential and career-related skills delivered through the educational program.

What we heard last meeting

- **Regardless of the focus area, PPS programming should deliver fundamental skills required for work, including**
 - Personal management
 - Problem solving
 - Communication
 - Teamwork
 - Technical/organizational knowledge
 - Job investigation

What we heard last meeting

- Also, **regardless of focus area**, career programming should:
 - Support a full range of postsecondary learning opportunities (not limited to 4-yr degrees)
 - Allow students to move at his or her own pace
 - Deliver highly transferable skills
 - Expose students to innovation and cutting edge technology
 - Keep an eye on equity of opportunity
 - Be delivered with appropriate structure and coordination

What we heard last meeting

- Criteria that could help PPS select among focus areas include:
 - Student interest
 - Occupations that demonstrate a range of skills
 - Supply of engaged employers who are generous with time and money
 - Supply of programming offered by community partners (colleges, WSI, City)
 - PPS's existing and potential capacity to deliver programming (curriculum, educators)

What we heard last meeting

- Criteria that could help PPS select among focus areas include:
 - Occupations with anticipated job openings
 - Occupations in clusters where economic developers would like to see growth