



Enrollment & Program Balancing: Phase 2 Work to Bring Changes to DLI, Focus Option and Neighborhood Programs

Dear PPS Community,

The second phase of Enrollment and Program Balancing work is entering a key juncture, and we want to share with you the proposals we will look to enact, as well as issues that have surfaced during the process that we will address.

In February, the PPS Board of Education charged staff to work with the Southeast Guiding Coalition (SEGC) and accomplish several goals:

- Convert Harrison Park from a K-8 to full middle school and create feeder patterns for it
- Find a site for Harrison Park's K-5 students
- Increase enrollment at Lane Middle School

The program balancing phase of SEGC and the proposed moves to balance enrollment exacerbated the current inequities we are experiencing in some of our K-5 dual language immersion (DLI) programs that share a campus at a neighborhood program (known as co-locating). Through feedback from families and staff, we found that co-locating DLI and neighborhood schools divided staffing and resources and impacted the ability to fully support emergent bilingual students. To address these inequities, we are proposing a whole school DLI model. In Southeast Portland, where Enrollment and Program Balancing is currently underway, this change will primarily impact two languages:

- Chinese, for which a whole-school DLI program could be located at Bridger or Woodstock
- Spanish, with whole-school programs at Lent or Bridger

The whole-school DLI model will eventually impact the rest of the schools in the district. It will be the model adopted for K-5 schools, as Enrollment and Program Balancing work moves to other areas in coming years. DLI programs that do not have enough students for a whole-school model, such as Russian and Vietnamese, will remain co-located for now.

The DLI model will look different at the 6-8 level. Language learning and acquisition experiences will complement the work being done at the middle school level.

Additionally, Creative Science K-8 School will relocate from the Clark campus and become a focus option/neighborhood school, following a model in use at Sunnyside (environmental) and Buckman

(arts). Proposed sites are Woodstock and Arleta. This will allow Clark to become the home for K-5 students from nearby Harrison Park.

To ensure we reach our overarching goal that "every student has a robust academic experience in each school," we have targeted a minimum enrollment of 500 students per middle school, and 270 students at each K-5 school. Those numbers, we believe, will lead to more equitable programming that includes enrichments and core academics. Boundary changes between neighborhood schools will be proposed to help achieve these goals.

There are still plenty of details to work out, starting at today's SEGC meeting. We also will have robust engagement opportunities beginning November 8. Proposal and community input details are posted on the [Enrollment and Program Balancing webpage](#). The final board decision on boundaries, enrollment and program locations will be made in February.