

**Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Enrollment and Transfer
Portland Public Schools
Guiding Beliefs**

Approved 10/13/2009

(Note: Beliefs and Values convey assumptions about what is worthwhile and are the foundational principles of an organization. They are statements of ideals and provide guidance and grounding when making decisions.)

Public schools are the cornerstone of democracy - they bring children and parents of different races, classes, and beliefs together and in so doing, reflect the diverse community at large. SACET is committed to supporting both equity and diversity in our schools and in our community. As the Superintendent's Advisory Committee on Enrollment and Transfer for Portland Public Schools, WE BELIEVE THAT:

1. Enrollment and Transfer policies should support each student to be successful.
2. Portland's vitality is rooted in strong local neighborhoods, with public schools at the heart of the community.
3. Every school, no matter where it is located, should be excellent and one where families want their children to attend.
4. Providing educational choice to Portland families allows the District to best meet students' needs.
5. A successful enrollment and transfer system should match the educational needs and interests of students to the best-fit programs.
6. A successful district is one where student achievement/success is not predicted by race/ethnicity, income status, language status, or disability.

The purpose of the committee's work is to:

- Advise the Superintendent on enrollment and transfer issues as she/he seeks to improve equity, program access and educational achievement for all students,
- Offer informed perspectives on the school district-wide impact of enrollment and transfer issues, based on shared information about enrollment and transfer policies and practices, and
- Identify issues of concern.

To achieve the purposes of SACET, WE WILL:

1. Work to do what is in the best interest of PPS students, maximizing opportunities for educational success.
2. Work to represent all the communities and diverse interests in the PPS community.
3. Work to produce outcomes that are productive, realistic, add value to enrollment/transfer issues and will be seriously considered by the Superintendent.
4. Work to understand and resolve complex and difficult enrollment and transfer issues, using data/evidence/trends and recognizing that it will require balancing known tensions between our priorities of supporting neighborhood schools and educational choice.

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(Note: Ground Rules address the behaviors regarding how committee members want to work together. To be effective, the Ground Rules must be clear and be followed.)

GROUND RULES

1. We need everyone's wisdom for the greatest results
2. We all own the process
3. Be willing to listen first to understand and learn, ask the hard questions and hear the answers
4. Remain engaged with the group process during and between meetings
5. Make space for others to participate. During meetings, self-monitor "air" time
6. Maintain our sense of humor