

**Portland Public Schools
2019-20 Budget Questions
Updated 4/16/2019**

Questions submitted by April 14, 2019 for Board meeting on April 23, 2019

Question #	Question	Response	Date Published
14	<p>Thank you in advance for responses you can share to my four questions below. 1) Seeing average class sizes is helpful but more interesting are school by school class size projections: median and ranges. I would like to see/understand where ratios are highest/lowest and map to SES/need of school. Wondering about schools "on cusp" - so those non-Title/non CSI but just barely...compared to higher SES/higher performing peers. 2) Which schools are able to "buy back" teachers using foundation funds? And how does that interact with/offset PPS intentions for equity? 3) Has PPS considered EAs as a way to offset the increased class sizes and if so, what is the plan for increasing/deploying across schools? 4) Where schools are doing blended grades, are they in isolation (e.g. 1 class versus 2 or more)? In my experience, having just one blended section is not good for teachers or kids so while it may save \$ it comes at instructional/learning cost.</p>	<p>Question 1-2: Any school with supplemental resources may use those resources in the way that the instructional leaders deem to be most beneficial to the student population they serve. These donations do not factor into the district's method of calculating core and equity resource allocations. All core and equity allocations are made based on unrestricted funds available to the district. Individual school information can be found in the Information Section of the Budget Document. Question 3: PPS has considered EAs as a way to offset where we see higher class sizes. The cost of a full-time EA is about half of a certified teacher. Depending upon the situation, we may deploy a teacher or an EA once we know actual enrollment in the fall. If a grade level has more than two sections and space in the school, it often makes more sense to add a certified teacher then to have a full-time EA split between 2-3 sections at a grade level. This is dependent upon the situation at the school. With limited resources, it will be difficult to deploy EAs across many schools. An analysis will need to be done in the fall based on actual students and the ability to address the highest class sizes.</p> <p>Question 4: Area Assistant Superintendents are working with principals on how they staff the 4/5 blends. It is often dependent on the situation at a particular school community. We do not have complete information at this time to know exactly how schools are staffing their 4/5 blends. Schools may be adding funding from additional sources to unblend how they were staffed. Guidance has been developed to help in the decision-making process about how to best address different content areas depending upon how the blends are constructed.</p>	4/16/2019
15	<p>Will there be any policy changes to the money management, sharing, etc. with regards to the transference of All-Hands Raised governance to PPS?</p>	<p>For over 25 years, Portland's parent, philanthropic and business community have stepped up in huge ways to support their local school communities through fundraising. During these 25 years, there have been a few and substantive changes made to policies, guiding principles and administrative procedures (1994, 1998, 2007) for the local school foundation fundraising efforts. As we build "The Fund for Portland Public Schools," a nonprofit entity that will be focused on raising philanthropic dollars on behalf of PPS, its students and schools, we are also transitioning the administrative responsibilities from All Hands Raised. To ensure a smooth transition, we have agreed, in turn-key style, to transfer as is. In the Fall of 2019, The Fund for Portland Public Schools, in partnership with PPS, will form a community task force of parents and community members to look at all aspects of the local school foundation efforts and determine areas that could strengthen how these entities operate and exist. This will culminate into a set of recommendations to both the PPS Board of Education and the Board of Directors of The Fund for Portland Public Schools. It will be a joint effort to determine appropriate shifts, if any, to both Board of Education Policy and The Fund's bylaws.</p>	4/16/2019