



Mei Lee, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Dear PPS Sixth Grade Families and Guardians:

We are pleased that Portland Public Schools will be offering Outdoor School as an option for all of our sixth grade students across the district this school year, carrying on a tradition of more than 50 years.

The program is run by the Multnomah Education Service District (MESD) and offered during the fall and spring each school year.

In the past, the state has not provided any funding to support the Outdoor School Program. In November 2016, Oregon voters approved Measure 99 to create the Outdoor School Education Fund, a dedicated fund out of the Oregon State Lottery.

While the legislature did not fully fund the program, the investment that the state did make to fund the program at approximately 50% will allow PPS to waive the \$85 fee that it has been traditionally charged to cover associated costs to the program such as transportation and substitute teachers.

We hope that waiving this fee will help make this program truly accessible for all students and help fulfill the intent of voters to allow *“Every Oregon student in the fifth or sixth grade (the) opportunity to attend a week-long outdoor school program.”*

We cannot guarantee this fee will continue to be waived in future years because it is contingent on state budget allocations for the program, but we are pleased that we can provide this for students and families this school year.

For those who have paid the fee already, you will be receiving a reimbursement.

Thank you for your support of Portland Public Schools.

We hope your student has a positive experience with the Outdoor School and benefits from this unique program.

Sincerely,

Mei Lee
Chief Financial Officer