

Subject: Enrollment forecasting for new and modernized schools

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Since 2016 PPS has experienced increased enrollment at several modernized and reconfigured schools. This report examines the “new school effect” at six schools, in order to prepare for re-opening Kellogg Middle School and Madison High School in August 2021.

Actual and forecasted enrollment at six schools were analyzed using the one-year forecasts delivered during the school year prior to re-opening. For new middle schools, the forecasts were prepared after the PPS Board of Education approved feeder patterns and other implementation plans.

Table 1: Forecast and actual enrollment at recently modernized, converted and re-opened schools

School	Type	Year	Forecast Enrollment	Actual Enrollment	Difference
Faubion K-8	modernization	2017	507	626	23% 119 students
Franklin HS	modernization	2017	1677	1745	4% 68 students
Grant HS	modernization	2019	1740	1813	4% 73 students
Harriet Tubman MS	Re-opened MS	2018	446	491	10% 45 students
Ockley Green MS	K-8 to MS conversion	2016	518	546	5% 28 students
Roseway Heights MS	K-8 to MS conversion	2018	571	588	3% 17 students

The Portland State University Population Research Center has provided annual enrollment forecasts for PPS for more than twenty years (pps.net/Page/1834). One-year district-level forecasts have been within 1% of actual enrollment for each of the past ten years, meaning a net difference of fewer than 500 students across all schools. However, enrollment is usually higher or

lower than expected at the individual school level. Higher than expected enrollment may result in disruptive staffing and scheduling changes after the start of the year, which has proved particularly challenging at new middle schools in recent years.

This brief report, based on an analysis conducted by the PSU Population Research Center, focuses on three essential elements of individual school enrollment forecasts:

- The number of students residing in the school attendance zone
- The proportion of resident students attending the neighborhood school
- The number of students who reside in other neighborhoods but attend this school, including students enrolled in special programs located at the school

Table 2 shows the difference between forecast and actual enrollment for each of these components. There is notable complexity even within this small set of factors. For example, the Grant High School resident forecast includes students who live in the base attendance zone, as well as those residing in the Jefferson/Grant dual assignment area. Additionally, the Grant non-resident forecast includes students with guaranteed transfer rights through ACCESS Academy and Japanese Immersion and those who remained at Grant after a boundary change with Madison began in 2019.

Table 2: Enrollment difference factors

School	Forecast resident students	Actual resident students	Difference*	Forecast resident students attending	Actual resident students attending	Difference*	Forecast non-resident students	Actual non-resident students	Non-resident difference	Total difference
Faubion K-8	641	726	54	64% 410	70% 509	45	97	117	20	119
Grant HS	1919	2002	83	72% 1391	75% 1492	29	349	321	-28	73
Franklin HS	2174	2194	14	68% 1480	70% 1533	39	197	212	15	68
Harriet Tubman MS	717	699	-7	48% 342	53% 368	33	104	123	19	45
Ockley Green MS	673	668	-3	55% 368	60% 399	34	150	147	-3	28
Roseway Heights MS	821	809	-7	62% 508	65% 529	28	63	59	-4	17

*The portion of enrollment difference that is attributed to a specific factor, as calculated by the PSU Population Research Center. The largest attributable factor for each school is highlighted.

In all cases, the rate of resident students attending the neighborhood school was higher than predicted. Additionally, at Faubion and Grant the number of resident students increased significantly, which was the primary reason for higher enrollment at these schools.

The “new school effect” varied across the six schools reviewed, but the pattern of increased enrollment by neighborhood students, as well as the likelihood of higher numbers of resident students, are probable at future new and modernized schools. This has implications for Madison High School and Kellogg Middle School, both opening in August 2021.

The latest enrollment forecasts prepared in Spring 2020 did not include Kellogg Middle School, because the assignment area and programs had not been determined. Additionally, increases in neighborhood PPS student populations or neighborhood school shares due to the opening of Kellogg MS were not factored into Franklin cluster K-8 schools. Enrollment forecasts for Kellogg MS and related schools will be prepared in Spring 2021, based on the board decision, and will be informed by this analysis.

In the meantime, the district staffing team could conduct additional analysis of “new school effect” staffing implications and consider non-formula adjustments for new schools to proactively address the potential for higher enrollment next year.