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## Announcing new Area Senior Director, Steven Stapleton

**August 2020**

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that Steven Stapleton, an accomplished administrator and educator, has accepted our offer to join PPS as an Area Senior Director in the Office of School Performance.

In this role, Steven will support nine elementary and two K-8 schools in the Cleveland-Franklin cohort, working under Dr. Esther Omogbehin, Regional Superintendent.

[\(See Office of School Performance organizational charts\)](#)

Steven is returning to the Portland area, where he grew up, from the Houston Independent School District, the largest district in Texas and seventh largest in the country. The last two years, he served as principal at Furr High School, taking on the assignment of rebuilding a historically underserved school. He developed a structure that led to an increase in student attendance and a decrease in discipline while utilizing a \$10 million grant to instill innovations to support personalized learning, competency-based education, and environmental and social justice.

Before that, Steven served as principal of McReynolds Middle School. Under his leadership, the school tied for first in Texas in academic growth among schools with similar low socio-economic status. During his five years as a Houston district principal, he was twice given an Excellence in Leadership Award, recognized from among 300 principals in the district.

Steven started his career as a science teacher in Texas, and has also served as a department chair, curriculum specialist in instructional technology, assistant principal, and director of professional learning.

Steven earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master's in Education Administration from Lamar University, and has completed his coursework for a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Texas A&M University.

Please join me in welcoming Steven to Portland Public Schools.

Shawn Bird, Ed.D.  
Chief of Schools



Steven Stapleton

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