

## HTMS Air Quality Summary

Portland Public Schools thanks the teachers, parents and students of Harriet Tubman Middle School for their patience and support with air quality issues during the renovation and opening of the school. Over the past year and a half, we have responded to concerns about air pollution from I-5 by conducting extensive air monitoring to ensure that the installed air handling system is consistently removing pollutants and providing clean air to the interior of the building.

Scientists from Portland State University conducted measurements in both Fall 2018 and Spring of 2019 to evaluate the performance of the filtration system. Using these measurements, a scientist from Oregon Health & Science University evaluated the health risks and concluded that indoor concentrations were very low and protective of student health.

Pollution from I-5 is elevated in the outdoor areas surrounding the school, but levels of the major regulated pollutants were always below Federal air quality standards, supporting the safety of outdoor air on the school grounds and the adjacent park. However, we believe that additional air quality progress can be made by state and local authorities. We will continue to advocate for clean air programs for the city and our region. We thank the members of the Environmental Technical Advisory Committee who generously guided and reviewed the air monitoring work and health risk assessment.

In a separate set of laboratory studies, PSU engineers conducted a wind tunnel analysis of air movement across a scale model of the school. This predictive data has improved our understanding of the potential impacts of the proposed I-5 expansion and the performance of a highway wall.

As we look ahead, we are committed to maintaining an advanced air filtration system at Harriet Tubman Middle School to protect the health of students and staff. We are now moving on to apply the lessons learned at Tubman to other schools located near heavily-travelled roadways.

The technical reports for the air monitoring, health risk assessment, and wind tunnel study are posted on the PPS Harriet Tubman Middle School homepage: <https://www.pps.net/Domain/4826> .