



PORTLAND
Public Schools



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Dear PPS families,

On Tuesday, Superintendent Guerrero submitted his proposed [budget for next school year](#). This budget builds on our successes and makes prudent investments in the face of significant constraints. It details how we'll use limited resources to meet students' growing needs, develop school-based supports, and foster teaching and learning excellence. You can watch the presentation [here](#).

As Superintendent Guerrero shared in January, this budget prioritizes investments in our core mission: **teaching and learning.**

If the budget passes as proposed, we will have:

- one of the the best class sizes among Oregon's larger districts (average: 22.6 students per K-5 homeroom)
- full-time school-based instructional coaches in every elementary, middle, and K-8 school
- educational assistants for all Title 1 kindergarten classrooms
- school improvement grants, ranging from roughly \$100,000 to \$120,000, so that school communities can make targeted one-time investments to support students
- summer 2023 programming to continue accelerating learning, and provide fun, safe and enriching opportunities
- targeted learning acceleration for Black and Native students via personalized instruction from professional educators
- continued access to high-dosage tutoring, credit recovery options, and instructional specialists for students requiring additional supports and learning options
- increased mental and behavioral health services, school counselors, school-based social workers, school psychologists, and substance abuse support

The budget continues to fund a transformative racial equity agenda and expanded systems of support.

Within our financial constraints, we believe this proposed budget is prudent, well-balanced, and responsible. Given that, we want to share with you, our community, that we're struggling to reconcile the prudence our budget demands with the implications of [the contract proposal made by the Portland Association of Teachers \(PAT\)](#), our educators' union.

[The union's proposal would add roughly \\$200 million in new costs](#) and hundreds of new staff. This is not consistent with our available resources. Even non-economic proposals could create significant operational shifts that we are struggling to fully analyze. For example, PAT has proposed that we “identify vacant and unused PPS land parcels that can be used for the development of affordable housing” in their employment agreement. We recognize our region’s housing emergency and work hard to serve housing-unstable students – but we’re an educational institution, and this is not something we are currently set up operationally to do. Taking on this responsibility would be a significant shift from our core mission: high-quality and joyful teaching and learning.

We love our educators, value their partnership, and recognize the contributions they make in our community. We are committed to resolving our contract in a manner that respects their immense contributions, and is expedient, thorough, prudent, consistent with our values – and responsible with our community’s tax dollars.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Garcia
Chief of Staff