



PPS school modernization update:

Portland Public Schools is deeply committed to ensuring that all Portland students have access to safe, modern schools where they can learn and thrive. We are grateful to the Portland voters who continue to support this goal by supporting bond measures – including a \$1.2 billion bond in 2020 – to support this goal. We owe it to students, staff, voters and taxpayers to be good fiscal stewards of those funds while building amazing schools and serving student needs.

The estimates to rebuild three of our high schools have risen to more than \$450 million each, which would make them the most costly high schools in Oregon. PPS leadership believes that the costs for the three new high schools should be scrutinized and made more manageable.

[On Dec. 2, at the School Facilities Improvement Oversight Committee](#), Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong and the PPS Board acknowledged their desire to build our newest high schools within a target budget that meets the academic, social and extracurricular needs of students. Constructing the high schools at a budget that is more in line with other recent high school rebuilds will free up funds to address critical needs in many of our other schools – while ensuring that the students at these three new high schools will not be shortchanged.

In order to achieve this goal, each school's design team will focus on preparing options for designs, schedules and budgets which the Superintendent and Board of Education will review at a future board meeting. The options will include all the spaces required in PPS's Educational Specifications that make our Comprehensive High Schools excellent learning environments. All community engagement meetings scheduled for the next several weeks will be postponed.

PPS is committed to completing the vital work of improving our aging school buildings in the decades to come, and we appreciate Portland voters who have supported this mission.