

“The Schools Portland Students Deserve”

The Portland Association of Teachers (PAT) is dedicated to creating great public schools for all Portland students. Over the course of the past year, the PAT brought together a diverse group of Portland educators to identify the barriers and opportunities to reaching this goal. The result is a school-visioning plan that we have presented to the district called “the Schools Portland Students Deserve.”

Here are some highlights of what Portland educators are advocating for with our current contract proposal:

Let Teachers Teach: Professional educators need to be engaged in the decision-making process around the method and materials used for instruction. Portland educators need the ability to lead their own classroom and personalize instruction for their unique students.

Educate and Support the Whole Child: Collaborate with the community to push against harmful educational reforms that reduce wrap around services and limit valuable programs and options for students. Work together with the community to identify new revenue to restore electives and fully fund a world-class education.

Collaborate for Kids: Educators and school leaders working together to limit and focus the number of new initiatives and provide the necessary time and professional development needed to successfully implement a new program for students.

Focus on Equity: Support the need for differentiated resources to support schools in high poverty neighborhoods in order to equalize some of the advantages enjoyed by students with more financial resources. Equalize opportunities for all students to receive instruction in art, music, PE, library science, world language and electives. Support contract exceptions that add up to five days of instruction to the calendar for priority schools.

Standardized Testing: Standardized tests should be only one of many tools used for assessing student learning and growth. Professional educators should be allowed to select and utilize curriculum-based measurements that are directly connected with evidence-based learning and data-supported progress monitoring.

Reduce Class Size and Caseload: Work in collaboration to identify new revenue to reduce class size and caseload so educators can provide the individual attention to students they need and deserve.

Accountability for All: Annually report to the community the cost, benefit, and opportunity cost (also called the lost benefit) of all staffing and other budget expenditures that do not directly support students. Create a mentoring/feedback program for administrators who need support in gaining skills.

For more, visit PAT’s website at www.pdxteachers.org and click on Bargaining Proposal Introduction “Preamble.”

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