



Advocate

January 9, 2019

PORTLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

Get Your PAT "RED FOR ED" T-Shirt

In time for the 2019 Legislative Session, we are getting new t-shirts.

They are red, in keeping with the nation-wide movement to demand adequate funding for public education. Ours will say "Fund our Future; Fund our Schools" on the back, with our PAT logo on the front.

We have shirts available for a suggested donation of \$10, to defray the cost and allow us to order as many shirts as we need. We will have shirts in sizes small through 3XL, in both a unisex style and a women's cut.

To get your T-shirt, you can order one through your Building Rep, or come by PAT to pick one up.

Plan on wearing "Red for Ed" every Tuesday until Oregon meets its commitment to our students.

Climate Justice Social January 17th

Would you like to **make climate justice a more central part of your curriculum**? Are you feeling overwhelmed by the idea of starting from scratch? The Climate Justice Committee can help with that! We are hosting our first **Teach Climate Justice happy hour event**. The social starts at 4:00 and the program will begin at 4:30.

Date: Jan. 17th
Time: 4:00-6:00 PM
Where: PAT Office

RSVP on the PAT website:
pdteachers.org.

New Year's Resolution: Keep the Oregon Legislature Focused on Funding Follow-Through

We are all too aware of the problems that a 30-year disinvestment in education has created. But, right now, we have an opportunity to make significant change.

We know that our students are being short-changed every year. Class sizes are still huge in many schools. Elementary schools need behavioral supports to address disrupted learning. Secondary students need more electives and access to more social and mental health services. We need school buildings with fully-staffed custodial support.

Twenty years ago, legislators, together with business and community leaders, developed the Quality Education Model (QEM). This was Oregon's answer to the problem of education funding, but the State has NEVER met its own guidelines. As a result, PAT members, together with educators around the state, have supported numerous campaigns designed to secure more stable funding for our schools, including:

- Measures 66 and 67 in 2010
- Dedicating the corporate kicker to education in 2014
- Measure 97 in 2016
- Legislative push for revenue increases from major corporations in 2017-2018

We have never just stood by while this disinvestment happened, but advocating hasn't been easy. At times, I've wondered if it was ever going change, and I'm sure you've wondered too.

In 2019, I'm asking you to join me again to push for real revenue for Oregon public education. And thanks to all our hard work in the past, I think the stars have finally aligned and we have a unique opportunity to fully fund education in Oregon.

First off, we have a governor who has set the baseline education budget at \$200 million more than the forecast PLUS she has added an investment package of \$2 billion more. That is 91% of the QEM--which is closer than we have ever been to full funding.

Second, we have a growing, bipartisan group of business and community leaders acknowledging that our schools need more funding.

And for the first time in my 15 years in the District, we have a supermajority in the Oregon legislature, not to mention the fact that the Senate President and House Speaker have both pledged to create a dedicated revenue package for education.

It's up to us to keep them focused, and make sure they follow through with this funding. **We need billions, not millions.**

That's why I need you to join me in Salem on President's Day for the biggest education rally yet. Monday, February 18th is our opportunity to show lawmakers that our schools





Portland Association of Teachers

345 NE 8th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-233-5018
Fax: 503-236-5255
<http://www.pdxteachers.org>

PAT OFFICERS

Suzanne Cohen

President

Elizabeth Thiel

Vice-President

OEA PROFESSIONAL STAFF

John Berkey

Consultant

Kathi Koenig

Consultant

Marty Pavlik

Consultant

OEA ASSOCIATE STAFF

Lisa Wilkerson

lisa.wilkerson@oregoned.org

Jennifer Dixon

jennifer.dixon@oregoned.org

**Breaking news first
on our Facebook Page:
[facebook.com/patpdx](https://www.facebook.com/patpdx)**

**Join our private, members-
only Facebook discussion
group
[facebook.com/groups/patpdx/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/patpdx/)**

Not receiving important PAT updates or has your home email changed? Give us your home email address to receive the latest bargaining information, member benefits, and other news you need.

The Advocate is published periodically by the Portland Association of Teachers for PAT/OEA/NEA members. Send news tips and photos to portlandteachers@gmail.com

©2019, PAT

need funding now, and our students can't wait. Educators from around the state will be joining us wearing red. Please sign up now on the PAT website for this important action.

Superintendents, School Board members, parents and students will also be there, letting the legislature know enough is enough. It's time for Oregon to keep its promise to our kids and fully fund our schools. We hope you can join us, and bring your colleagues, family, and friends.

In Solidarity

Suzanne Cohen

PAT President

Legislative Round Table on Funding

As part of our campaign to fully fund our schools, the PAT Legislative Committee is hosting a Round Table discussion with our elected lawmakers, on Thursday, January 10. We know our local elected leaders have already promised to fight for full funding of the Quality Education Model (QEM), the Oregon Legislature's own model for what it would mean to fund a basic level of quality public education.

But we also know the legislature has NEVER met the QEM standards, and we're now billions of dollars short. Our lawmakers need to understand our urgency and hear directly from educators. Educators will be sharing their own stories about class size, salary, and disrupted learning, in an effort to push our Senators and Representatives find a funding solution this legislative session.

To get involved with PAT's Legislative Committee, join us for our January meeting, Thursday, January 24th, 4:30-6:30 PM at the PAT office.

OEA Promising Practices Grants

Do you have a plan that could enhance your classroom skills or boost student achievement? An idea for a site-based professional development activity that could build partnerships? OEA's Center for Great Public Schools awards Promising Practice Grants to individual PAT members.

There are two \$500 grants available to PAT members. To apply, please complete the short application form available on the PAT website: pdxteachers.org. The completed grant application form must be sent to martin.pavlik@oregoned.org by February 4th.

Join the PAT Bargaining Committee!

In preparation for our next round of bargaining with the District, PAT is recruiting members to serve on our Bargaining Committee. The Bargaining Committee will be a larger group than the Bargaining Team, and will likely require less time than serving on the Bargaining Team. Members of the Bargaining Committee can expect to meet regularly while PAT is developing bargaining proposals, and throughout the bargaining process, but Bargaining Committee members will not necessarily be present for bargaining sessions. The Committee will help research, develop, and vet bargaining proposals, as well as gather input from different parts of our membership. This work will guide the Bargaining Team's work at the table.

We want to create a diverse and representative Bargaining Committee, including educators from every grade-band and from a variety of different jobs. We want our committee to be diverse in terms of race, gender, and age, and to represent educators from all corners of the city. If you are interested in being directly involved in our bargaining process, please fill out the interest form on the PAT website: pdxteachers.org. From the set of all who are interested, we will create a committee that is as diverse and balanced as possible.