



Advocate

February 6, 2019

PORTLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

Don't Forget to Vote In the PAT Election!

An email containing a link to the Voter's Pamphlet, Candidate Statements and the electronic ballot were sent to PAT members last week. If you have not received one, double-check your home or PPS mailboxes. Ballots must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2019, to be counted.

Planning to Retire Before Next School Year?

Our contract provides a stipend to encourage employees who know they will be resigning or retiring to give notice prior to the Spring unassignment and transfer process.

If you notify the District in writing of your intent to resign or retire **no later than February 15th**, you will receive a stipend of \$700, to be paid in your final paycheck from the district. This does not apply if you are resigning in lieu of termination, non-renewal, or non-extension.

Social Justice Social Building Sanctuary February 21st

Schools have become an increasingly risky place for undocumented students and families.

Join us for a discussion of how educators can offer support to immigrant students and families.

Date: Feb. 21st
Time: 4:30-6:00 PM
Where: PAT Office

RSVP on the PAT website: pdteachers.org.

Are Our Students Worth \$4 Billion?

The results are in. After talking with parents, students, and educators around the state for the past year, the Legislature's Joint Committee on Student Success just released their final report.

Four billion dollars.

That is how much money Oregon needs to invest if we want to guarantee essential educational services for our schools and *all* our students. In their report, the bipartisan committee outlines how they arrived at this number, and what \$4 billion could do for our schools. Here are just a few examples:

Funding for smaller classes:

- 20 students in kindergarten and grade 1
- 23 students in grades 2 and 3
- 24 students in grades 4 and 5
- 29 students in core academic classes in grades 6 to 12

Funding to support specialists in every elementary school: This includes an art teacher, music teacher, PE teacher, TAG teacher, teacher librarian, ELL teacher, and school counselor.

Funding to support struggling students: This includes establishing dedicated funding and requiring schools to establish before- or after-school tutoring and supports for struggling students. Also requiring every District to adopt an intervention strategy and equip every District with an early warning system for students at risk of dropping out, including students who are chronically absent.

Early interventions: This includes increased access to intensive early childhood services such as Early Head Start and Relief Nurseries.

Read the report, and all the recommendations, on the PAT website. If you believe, as I do, that our students, schools and future are absolutely worth it, now's the time to join the conversation. **Your voice matters!**

The truth is, we have been living with **decades of disinvestment**. For almost 30 years, the state legislature has avoided stepping up to fund public education.

But this is our window of opportunity! We have a democratic super-majority in the House and the Senate, and leaders from both chambers have vowed to address education funding. We also have a pro-education governor and a report from the bipartisan Joint Committee for Student Success outlining necessary programs (and funding) to help our students succeed.

And there's a wave of public educators rising up across the nation. For example, our neighbors in Washington and California have just made huge gains by coming together.





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Unfortunately, there are also vested interests who don't want to see our public schools or our students succeed. They will fight tooth and nail to avoid paying their fair share. It's up to us to make it clear to lawmakers in Salem that we've had enough, and that we'll do whatever it takes to fund the schools our students deserve.

But **we can't win if we don't show up**. Our first big chance is Monday February 18th, President's Day. Thousands of educators from across the state will be in Salem that day, letting lawmakers know we won't pass up this chance to finally reverse decades of disinvestment. If you believe our students and our schools need more, then you know you belong in Salem.

We have buses leaving from all over the city, and you'll be home in time for a late lunch. **Sign up on the PAT website today!**

Our careers, our students, our schools, our FUTURE depend on us showing up, so we can do what we've seen educators across the nation do for their students.

See you in Salem.

Suzanne Cohen
PAT President

Legislative Round Table on Funding

The PAT Legislative Committee hosted a Round-Table discussion on school funding on Thursday, January 10th. In attendance were 8 of our local elected leaders, and about 16 classroom teachers with stories to tell about unmet student needs. Our Senators and Representatives left with a clear sense of the urgency we felt around fully funding public schools in Oregon this session.

Thanks to Senators Lew Frederick and Kathleen Taylor, and Representatives Rob Nosse, Ginny Burdick, Shamia Fagan, Mitch Greenlich, Alyssa Keny-Guyer, and Jennifer Williamson for taking time to hear stories from our classrooms. And many thanks to the teachers who shared their stories.

Please help us keep up the momentum by writing to YOUR Representative and Senator, and letting them know why fully funding our schools is urgent for your students.

Setting Overload Pay for the Spring Semester

Our contract now has language that defines limits to class-size, teaching load, caseload, and number of unique course preparations. Article 8 in the 2016-2019 PAT Agreement defines "thresholds" for teaching loads and caseloads and requires overload pay for educators who exceed the thresholds. It also requires overload pay for departmentalized 6-8, middle school, and high school full-time educators with more than three unique course preparations.

Of course, the intent was to reduce our workload, not for large numbers of educators to receive overload pay. However, holding the District accountable to paying overload pay this year is a crucial step towards securing real workload reductions in the future.

Any **overload pay for second semester** will be based on workload on the *third Monday of February*. Since that is a no-school day, we count overages on Tuesday, February 19. If you have an overage on this date, please make sure you save evidence, by taking screenshots of your class lists and/or course lists on Synergy.

We are still working to resolve disagreements with the district overload pay for first semester, and anticipate filing a number of class-action grievances.