



Advocate

April 17, 2019

PORTLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

It's Time for PAT Building Rep Elections

It is time to elect your site's PAT Building Representatives for next school year! Each site is entitled to 1 Representative for every nine members.

Our building elections are how we ensure that Reps at each site are trusted, respected leaders. If you're interested in running to be a Rep, let your current Head Rep know. Each site should create a ballot and hold an election at a 10-minute meeting before the May 15th RA.

For more information and some resources, go to pdxteachers.org/pat_elections.

Climate Justice Social April 25th

Are you ready to engage your peers and students in bold climate justice education? Is your school community excited to join a global movement fighting for equitable solutions to the greatest challenge of our time? Join educators and youth to learn how to advocate for environmental justice in your classroom, at your school, and in your community.

Thursday, April 25th at PAT
4:00 PM Social;
4:30 – 6:00 PM Program

Food and beverages provided
RSVP on the PAT website

If you are interested, please fill out the interest form on the PAT website: pdxteachers.org.

President's Message: Keep Up the Pressure!

After decades of disinvestment, teachers across Oregon are conducting a one-day walkout on May 8th to advocate for increased school funding.

Thanks to you, and your passion for our students, **Portland Public Schools has announced their decision to pre-emptively close all 81 school buildings** on Wednesday, May 8th.

An unplanned day off of school is a big deal for Portland's 49,000 students, but **this is a long-term investment in their future.**

We continually hear from our community—parents, public school families, PTAs, advocates, local businesses—that our schools are devastatingly underfunded and students are suffering because of it.

We see the impact every day—our classrooms are bursting at the seams, our buildings are falling apart, and students are missing out on the individual attention they deserve. Things are only getting worse. Over the last decade, we've seen the curriculum pared down, with less time for arts, music, world languages, and other offerings, and there are more and more students who aren't getting their needs met.

We've had enough—so we're standing up for students and taking action!

Thousands of Portland teachers will be walking out on Wednesday, May 8th to tell lawmakers loud and clear that **it's time to raise billions in new revenue and significantly increase school funding.**

This is unprecedented in the state of Oregon, but we're building on the teacher walkouts and strikes around the nation, from West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Arizona to Los Angeles, Denver, and Oakland.

We are inviting all families, students, and community supporters to **join us at 11:00 AM at the Tom McCall Waterfront for a rally and march.** This is the only way we can secure the investments our students need.

It's time—past time—to fund the schools our students deserve. Our students can't wait any longer and neither can we.

At Tuesday's staff meeting, your building rep will be asking you to sign up to attend our actions on May 8th. **It's time to take a stand, for your students, for your colleagues, and for yourself.**

In Solidarity,

Suzanne Cohen
PAT President





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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

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Standardized Testing: We Want to Hear from You

PAT's Instruction and Professional Development Committee wants to gather data directly from teachers about the impact of standardized testing on instructional time.

In the Fall, we heard a lot about how long MAP tests were taking and wanted to check back in to see if the situation had improved, as teachers and students gained expertise with navigating the MAP test. In addition to MAP, we know that instructional time is impacted by other standardized tests administered during the school day, including SBA, OAKS Science, PSAT, and ACT.

We recognize that there are justifiably strong feelings around this issue. We would like to hear from everyone, no matter where you are on the spectrum of feeling and opinion about standardized testing.

There are two ways you can help us gather this information, so that we can have an accurate picture that spans the district:

1. Fill out the IPD survey on the PAT website. It should take 5-10 minutes.
2. Attend our IPD Committee meeting, Wednesday April 24th, 4:30-6:30 PM at PAT. At the meeting we will look at data and create anonymous "student testing profiles" to illustrate the actual time spent testing by real, individual students.

Please RSVP on the PAT website so we can plan for materials and food.

Portland School Board Election: Vote by May 21st

The Portland Association of Teachers' Political Action Committee (PAT PAC) is proud to announce its endorsements for the May 2019 primary election.

The Board considered the following criteria when making its endorsements:

- support for collective bargaining;
- commitment to educator voice;
- knowledge of education issues such as standardized testing and disrupted learning;
- commitment to racial equity;
- advocacy for fully-funded public schools; and
- electability.

We are excited to work with these candidates to improve our school district!

Zone 2: Michelle A. DePass

Zone 3: Amy Kohnstamm

Zone 7: Eilidh Lowery

The PAT PAC Board had not yet made an endorsement for Zone 1.

Read more about our endorsed candidates here:

pdxteachers.org/may_2019_endorsements