



Advocate

February 26, 2020

PORTLAND ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS

K-5 Report Card Redesign

Thanks to all who came to the IPD meeting on Jan. 8th to give your feedback on how to improve our K - 5 report card. From that group we now have our report card redesign committee members: Marlana Maestas (Glencoe), Martha Gross (Richmond), Emilia Schwing (Spanish Immersion), Christopher Naze (Capitol Hill), and Elizabeth Israel-Davis (Grout, & Chair of IPD).

The first meeting with District senior leadership and parents will be Tuesday, March 10th.

Before that meeting, if you have ideas you would like to share about improving the K - 5 report card, please attend the next IPD committee meeting:

Date: Wednesday, March 4th
Time: 4:30 - 6:30 PM
Place: PAT office

Dinner provided, please RSVP online: pdteachers.org

PAT Elections- Results

President

- Elizabeth Thiel

Vice-President

- Gwen Sullivan

Secretary

- Alisha Chavez-Downing

Treasurer

- Diana Collins

Executive Board (5 positions elected):

- Mike Bauer
- Greg Burrill
- Vincent Chiriwami
- Jacque Dixon
- Rachel Hanes

Thank you to everyone who ran for office and who voted!

President's Message: Everyone Counts in the Census

It may not be something that you've thought about before, but I want to share a few reasons why the U.S. Census is so important to the well-being of our students and the strength of our public schools.

First and foremost, **the census affects \$800 billion in public education funding.**

Every year the federal government distributes federal education funds to states and localities—funds that help reduce class sizes, hire specialists, provide preschool to low-income families, and ensure that hungry students can get breakfast or lunch to help them pay attention in class.

These funds are allocated based on population and poverty level, information calculated directly from census data.

UNDERCOUNTED=UNDERSERVED

When children and their families go uncouncted, it is unlikely that their schools and communities will receive the resources they need, widening educational inequality.

Young children are at high risk of not being counted. Research shows that the 2010 census missed 10 percent of children under the age of five. **That's more than 2 million kids.**

What's worse is the fact that **hard-to-count populations include some of our most vulnerable families:** recent immigrants or English language learners; those without stable housing; and children in shared custody arrangements, or those being raised by someone other than their parents.

Because the census count happens only once every 10 years, if we undercount young children, the consequences will last for most of their childhood.

Census data also affects numerous other social programs that directly impact children's health and academic success, like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which keeps millions of families out of poverty.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

Because educators are trusted, it's **important that we do our part to reassure students and families** that participation in the census is safe, important, and necessary. This is how we help ensure that every community receives its fair share of federal and state funding for schools and other critical services.

So please talk to your family, coworkers, and friends about what is at stake for public schools in the census.

As a middle school math teacher, I also encourage you to participate in **Statistics in Schools Week**, March 2nd-6th, 2020.





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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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Educators across the country will be teaching students about the importance of the census, and you can find an extensive collection of lesson plans, maps, coloring pages, word finds, and more on the PAT website: pdxteachers.org/census.

Thank you for helping us make the 2020 census as accurate and complete as possible. I hope you'll also consider sending home a reminder about the census with your students. Flyers are available on the PAT website: pdxteachers.org/census.

In Solidarity,

Suzanne Cohen
PAT President

PAT PAC Endorsements: 2020 Primary for Oregon Legislature

The Portland Association of Teachers Political Action Committee (PAT PAC) is proud to announce its endorsements for candidates running for the Oregon Legislature in the May 2020 Primary Election.

This year, the issues of keeping promises and respecting workers have been of central importance to the PAT PAC Board, and to all our PAT PAC members. The passage of SB1049 last summer-- which reallocates a portion of public employee compensation away from workers' retirement savings, to use it to pay down the state's debt-- was deeply troubling to teachers and all public employees. A vote for this bill represents a lawmakers' willingness to forgo agreements made in trust, and a willingness to forgo agreements and force public workers to pay for the state's programs.

Nonetheless, we gave every candidate an opportunity to discuss their vote with us. Some answers horrified us--not only do some of our elected officials show no remorse for their vote, some said they'd do further cuts if needed.

This primary season, the PAT PAC is not endorsing any candidate who voted for SB1049. We are hopeful that moving forward, our Oregon Legislature will be bold champions for workers, public education, and the revenue reform to allow our state to meet the needs of all our state's children, families, and community members.

The PAT PAC endorsement panel consisted of 9 educators along with OEA staff. The panel considered the following criteria while making their endorsements: support for collective bargaining and the rights of workers; knowledge of education issues; commitment to racial equity; advocacy for strong, fully-funded public schools; and electability.

We are proud to endorse the following candidates for the Oregon State Legislature:

- **House District 33: Christina Stephenson** – As a civil rights attorney, Christina has centered her career around protecting workers. She will be a fierce advocate for labor rights in Salem.
- **House District 36: Laurie Wimmer** – Her decades of experience as an OEA lobbyist, advocating for educators and students in Salem, give her the political know-how to get things done.
- **House District 42: Paige Kreisman** – Paige deeply believes in fully funding public schools, strengthening workers' rights, and providing needed human services to all Oregonians. She will be a good partner for educators in Salem.
- **Senate District 21: Kathleen Taylor** – Senator Taylor's record on public education speaks for itself. She's been an unwavering advocate for revenue reform, protecting PERS, and public services, and is a powerful advocate in Salem.

We look forward to working with these candidates to fully fund our schools, support workers, and better support our students and families. The PAT PAC is not done-- we will be announcing additional endorsements in the coming weeks.