



## Bureau of Planning and Sustainability

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**DATE:** April 23, 2012

**TO:** Planning and Sustainability Commission

**FROM:** Deborah Stein, Principal Planner

**CC:** Susan Anderson, Director; Joe Zehnder, Chief Planner; Eric Engstrom, Principal Planner

**SUBJECT:** Public Schools Report (Factual Basis - Portland Plan Background Report Update)

### Overview

The Public Schools Background Report (Proposed Draft, Revised April 2012) highlights issues, findings and recommendations related to public schools (grades K-12) in Portland within the city's six school districts: Centennial, David Douglas, Parkrose, Portland Public, Reynolds and Riverdale. The purpose of this report is to provide context for understanding the roles that public schools play as physical places in the environment as well as central elements in complete neighborhoods.

Key issues identified in the report include funding challenges, impacts of local decisions on district enrollment and revenue streams, population growth and school capacity, zoning and regulatory issues, and demographic shifts including growing numbers of students in poverty.

The Portland Plan's Thriving Educated Youth and Healthy Connected City strategies recognize the important role that public schools already serve, and the potential for them to become even more integrated into Portland neighborhoods and communities. This report includes three recommendations to be carried forward into the next steps for Portland Plan implementation:

1. Strengthen the role of schools as centers of community
2. Continue to build and sustain strong partnerships between school districts, City government and community partners
3. Consider the fiscal and social effects of land use policies on schools

### Background

As part of Portland's Periodic Review, and as background for the Portland Plan and the Comprehensive Plan update, BPS staff has developed a collection of 20+ background reports that detail existing conditions in areas ranging from economic opportunities and housing supply to urban form, watershed health and human health and safety. The reports establish



the required factual basis for future policy decisions in the Comprehensive Plan and were used as general background during the development of the Portland Plan.

The Public Schools Report has been updated since November 2009 when an initial draft was completed and made available for public review. Like the Economic Opportunities Analysis and the Buildable Lands Inventory (also before the Planning and Sustainability Commission at its May 8, 2012 public hearing), the findings and recommendations found in this report will inform the implementation of the Portland Plan, including the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

### **Decisions and Actions Requested**

We are asking the Planning and Sustainability Commission to make an affirmative recommendation to City Council on the revised Economic Opportunity Analysis. With that recommendation, BPS will bring this material to City Council. The City Council will be asked to adopt these reports by ordinance. They will then be delivered to DLCD for acknowledgement, to satisfy a portion of Task 2 of Periodic Review.

