



Education

WHAT IS THIS STRATEGY ABOUT?

Improve student success through communitywide collaborative efforts, address the disproportionately negative outcomes experienced by youth of color and youth in poverty, and more tightly link schools and neighborhoods to benefit both.

These goals will be achieved by focusing efforts and investments in:

A. The Cradle to Career Initiative

The Cradle to Career initiative is a collaborative effort among educational, non-profit, and government partners to collect and analyze data, develop indicators of success and target resources to better meet those measures, with an emphasis on improving outcomes for communities of color and people in poverty.

B. Communities and Neighborhoods that Support Youth

Supportive communities and neighborhoods offer youth enriching activities, recreation, and opportunities for positive relationships with supportive and caring mentors, which improves the likelihood of student success. Community organizations, parents, non-parents, and educational and government partners must work together to create supportive environments.

C. Workforce Preparation and Skill Building

Opportunities for a solid K–12 education, career or university training, mentorships and other supports outside the K–12 classroom are essential to building a resilient workforce. Educational opportunities must prepare workers to respond to economic changes and attract the businesses that bring family-wage jobs and should be available to all students, regardless of race, ethnicity or income.

D. 21st Century School Facilities

Quality facilities create opportunities to serve multiple community functions. We must support investments that will transform the City's schools into quality learning spaces that provide 21st century technology and desirable community gathering places.

What might this mean for me?

- Greater opportunities for after-school activities at your neighborhood school, for students and community members
- Better access to life-long learning opportunities for all Portlanders — from job skills to arts and other languages
- Schools that are connected and integral parts of neighborhoods
- Skills training that matches what the job market needs
- Affordable, quality childcare in your neighborhoods
- Neighborhood schools that host civic and cultural events
- Local businesses that offer neighborhood youth mentoring and skill-building opportunities close to home
- Safe, clean and attractive schoolyards and buildings



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WHY DO WE NEED THIS STRATEGY?

The success of our public schools, vocational schools, community colleges and universities are a determinant of our City's prosperity. Students need support inside and outside the classroom to ensure that they thrive at each stage of life, and are prepared for education or training, stable and satisfying work, and engagement in community life.

TODAY ...

- 1** Only 1 out of 3 high school graduates continue their education after high school.
- 2** In the 2009–10 school year, at least 45% of students in Portland's public schools were students of color.
- 3** Participation in post-secondary education, vocational training and workplace apprenticeships is disproportionately low for students of color, youth in poverty, and English Language Learning (ELL) students.
- 4** Many of Portland's youth do not have positive adult role models or mentors, stable housing, and financial and social support systems to succeed in school.
- 5** Too few children participate in quality early childhood education, particularly those who live in poverty.
- 6** Aging buildings and years of deferred maintenance are a concern for school districts. For example, at least \$272 million is needed by Portland Public Schools for short-term stabilization projects, like fixing leaking pipes and roofs.





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WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE? Education Objectives in 2035:

- 1. Ready to learn:** Every child in Portland enters school prepared to learn, and supported inside and outside school, so they can succeed academically, graduate from high school, enroll in post-secondary education or training, and enter a career by age 25.
- 2. Equitable participation:** Youth of color, youth in poverty, English Language Learning (ELL) youth, and first generation college students participate in post-secondary education, vocational training and workplace apprenticeships at the same rate as all students.
- 3. Graduation rate:** The high school graduation rate for all Portland youth is 95–100% on-time, and all schools provide a strong core curriculum and specialization options for K–12 students.
- 4. Stable funding:** The Oregon state tax system is structured to provide stable, adequate funding for excellence in curriculum and teaching quality.
- 5. Mentorship:** Parents, public agencies, public schools, higher education institutions, businesses and non-parent community members collaborate to offer volunteer and mentoring opportunities at every public school.
- 6. Comprehensive student support:** At-risk youth have comprehensive, coordinated support systems and safe neighborhoods with ample workforce training, education and employment options.
- 7. Wraparound services:** Neighborhood schools offer appropriate wraparound community services, before- and after-school programs, parental engagement and lifelong learning opportunities for all community members.
- 8. Childcare access:** All children have access to quality childcare, such as Head Start, pre-school, or in-home early childhood education, and enter Kindergarten ready to learn.
- 9. Reduce barriers to success:** Scholarships and financial aid reduce financial barriers to post-secondary education and training and other life skills classes, and all students are given the resources and knowledge for how to take advantage of these opportunities.
- 10. Arts education:** All of Portland's K–12 schools have regular, systemic access to arts education (dance, music, etc.) with expanded resources for training and professional development.
- 11. Learning environments:** All school buildings in Portland meet life safety regulations and provide a safe, warm learning environment. Portland's investment in education reflects pride of schools as honored places of learning.
- 12. Partnerships:** Public agencies involved in education have clear roles and responsibilities and have established strong partnerships.