

Direction from the Portland Plan to Guide the Work of the Education & Youth Success Policy Expert Group

Public Schools Background Report

Issues

1. State and local funding challenges
- 2. Impacts of local decisions on enrollment and revenue**
- 3. Population growth**
- 4. Zoning and regulatory challenges**
- 5. Distribution of poverty**
6. Student mobility
7. Racial, ethnic and language diversity
8. Student achievement
9. Special education

(Issues in bold are those which are most closely tied to topics or policy areas to be explored in the Comprehensive Plan update because they affect or are influenced by the built environment in some way.)

Recommendations

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.

Portland Plan “Thriving Educated Youth” Strategy Excerpt

Goal: Ensure that youth (ages 0-25) of all cultures, ethnicities, abilities and economic backgrounds have the necessary support and opportunities to thrive - both as individuals and as contributors to a healthy community and prosperous, sustainable economy.

This goal will be achieved by focusing on actions and policies that:

- **Build a culture of high expectations and achievement for all Portland youth.** Expectations expressed directly and indirectly by teachers, counselors, administrators and community members help shape the expectations that youth have for themselves.

- **Encourage all Portlanders to share in a sense of ownership for youth success.** The economy and community benefit when children and youth flourish academically, physically, emotionally and socially.
- **Create complete neighborhoods and communities that support youth success.** Youth need safe homes, access to physical and social resources, and caring adults outside of as well as inside the classroom.
- **Support facilities, systems and programs that meet 21st century opportunities and challenges.** Buildings, technology and programs must be accessible, durable and adaptable to meet emerging needs.

Achieving this goal requires *focus* and *collaboration* among a broad spectrum of community partners, including educational institutions, businesses, public agencies and community-based organizations. The Cradle to Career Partnership in Multnomah County has committed to driving durable and systemic change through a new “civic infrastructure” of partners who share a common agenda and are ready to align resources around three strategic priorities:

1. Eliminate disparities in children and youth success;
2. Link community and family supports to children and youth success; and
3. Ensure that every child enters school prepared to learn.

Cradle to Career is the cornerstone of this Thriving Educated Youth strategy, and is embodied in the second of the four strategy elements. Additional guiding policies and five-year actions complement and support the collective efforts of the Cradle to Career Partnership.

(For more info about the Cradle to Career Partnership, go to www.allhandsraised.org)