

# Portland Plan “Thriving Educated Youth” Guiding Policies

Adopted by Portland City Council on April 25, 2012

*(Policies in bold are those which most directly relate to the Comprehensive Plan.)*

## **Strategy Element 1: A culture of high expectations and achievement for all Portland Youth**

- T - 1 Build strategic and effective partnerships among public agencies, formal and informal educators, community-based partners, businesses and youth to:
  - a. Express and reinforce high expectations for young people to prepare them for high achievement and graduation.
  - b. Expose youth to college opportunities at early stages of high school.
  - c. Sustain and expand internships, apprenticeships and other work-based experiential learning opportunities for high school youth.
  - d. Increase enrollment of high school graduates in the higher education system.
  - e. Increase the number of degrees awarded locally.
  - f. Align educational programs with targeted workforce development.
- T - 2 Provide ongoing support and training to teachers, advisors, administrators, parents, other adults and students to ensure that programs and practices inside and outside the classroom are responsive to Portland’s diverse cultures.
- T - 3 Target resources and support services to reduce barriers to attaining post-secondary degrees and certificates for non-traditional students (e.g., those balancing work and school, and students with young children).

## **Strategy Element 2: Shared ownership for youth success**

- T - 4 Conduct outreach and dialogues with the public, including youth and their families, about educational goals, desired outcomes and strategic interventions that will improve the success of our public schools.
- T - 5 Base decisions on collectively developed indicators, ensuring that data is disaggregated to understand and address disparities in achievement.
- T - 6 Focus strategies and resources towards needs-based interventions that yield the highest impact, with a focus on continuous improvement.
- T - 7 Support funding strategies and partnerships to ensure increased affordability and access to early childhood and higher education.
- T - 8 Provide meaningful opportunities for youth to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- T - 9 Encourage intergenerational mentoring, tapping the knowledge and experience of Portland’s older adults.

### **Strategy Element 3: Neighborhoods and communities that support youth success**

- T - 10** Capitalize on the opportunities that public schools offer as honored places of learning as well as multi-functional neighborhood anchors to serve local residents of *all* generations.
- T - 11** Focus public investment in community infrastructure including education, recreation, housing, transportation, health and social services to reduce disparities faced by youth of color, families in poverty, youth with disabilities and others at risk of not graduating from high school.
- T - 12** Stabilize housing for homeless and low-income families with young children to reduce student mobility rates and provide educational continuity for students throughout the school year.
- T - 13** Support collaborative efforts between public safety providers, youth and other community members, organizations and businesses to decrease gang violence and other threats to public safety through positive relationship-building and holistic approaches.
- T - 14** Target city budget decisions to support local school districts' major capital investments through complementary improvements including recreational fields, sidewalks and safe crossings, and others that leverage limited capital funding available for schools within the city.
- T - 15** Make it easier for students to get to school, work and other needed services on public transit.

### **Strategy Element 4: Facilities and programs that meet 21st century opportunities and challenges**

- T - 16** Enable educational and community facilities to serve multiple purposes and generations, coordinate and leverage public capital funds, and build a sense of community ownership.
- T - 17** Operate more efficiently, predictably and in a more cost-effective manner through intergovernmental agreements among the City of Portland, government agencies and school districts.
- T - 18** Support legislative efforts in Salem to reform education funding in Oregon, to improve the ongoing maintenance of our school facilities, and to correct recent economic pressures affecting necessary maintenance over time.
- T - 19** Support curricula and educational opportunities that foster creativity and critical thinking to prepare students for a workforce that is globally competitive, entrepreneurial and responsive to economic change.
- T - 20** Design facilities and programs to flexibly adapt to changes in teaching approaches and technology over time, and equitably address the needs of learners of different abilities and learning styles.
- T - 21** Utilize school grounds and facilities as green spaces, community gardens, playgrounds and other physical activity resources for neighborhoods with little or no other access to green spaces.
- T - 22** Provide accessibility for students, staff and visitors with disabilities by incorporating universal design practices into new and rehabilitated school facilities.