

**Dave Porter
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3/7/19

Dear Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair McLane and members of the Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education,

Testimony on HB 5015: the Oregon Department of Education.

The Oregon Department of Education and the Oregon educational establishment in general are currently failing to provide Oregon students: (1) with racially integrated schools, and (2) with dual language immersion programs and high school study abroad opportunities sufficient to secure their national security and economic futures.

(1) Integrate the schools

In many Oregon communities the schools reflect patterns of housing that are segregated by race and family income levels. There are schools with mostly affluent White students and there are schools with mostly poorer students of color.

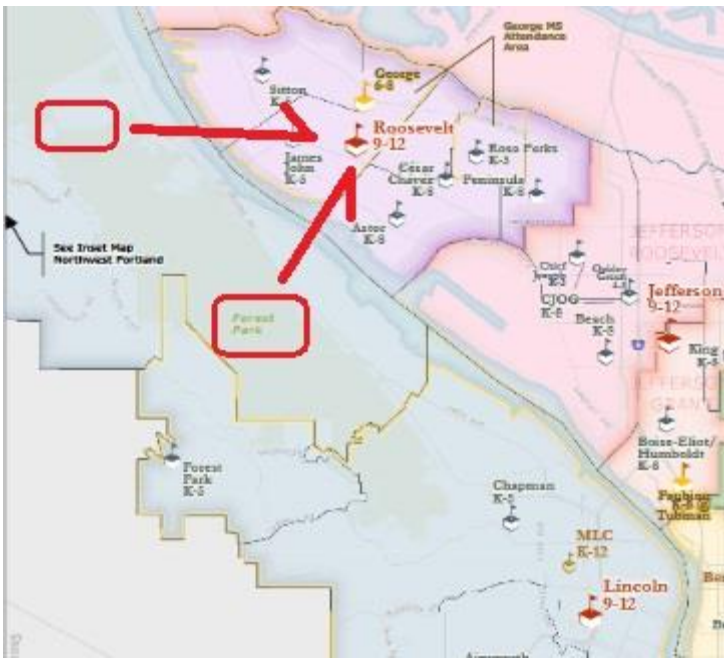
For example, consider the 56 elementary schools of Portland Public Schools. 56.6% of all PPS elementary students are White. However, 9 schools have percentages of White students more than 20% above that (greater than 76.6%) reflecting their more affluent White neighborhoods. On the other hand, 12 schools have percentages of White students 20% below average (less than 36.6%) reflecting neighborhoods with lower family incomes and more people of color.

Portland Public Schools October 2018 count Elementary Schools % White enrollment Schools greater than 76.6%	
Ainsworth	84.8%
Duniway	82.9%
Alameda	81.0%
Lewis	80.3%
Rieke	79.2%
Maplewood	78.9%
Laurelhurst	78.8%
Beverly Cleary	77.9%
Llewellyn	77.7%
Average all schools	56.6%

Portland Public Schools October 2018 count Elementary Schools % White enrollment Schools less than 36.6%	
Woodlawn	33.1%
Marysville	31.4%
Scott	29.8%
Faubion	26.1%
Sitton	25.9%
Harrison Park	24.9%
Lent	22.5%
MLK Jr	21.2%
Boise-Elliott	19.4%
Cesar Chavez	18.0%
Rigler	18.5%
Rosa Parks	14.5%
Average all schools	56.6%

Consider the cases of Roosevelt and Lincoln High Schools in PPS. Roosevelt was just rebuilt for an enrollment capacity of 1,350. Lincoln will be rebuilt on the latest bond measure for an enrollment capacity of 1,700. Lincoln’s enrollment boundary was recent revised to reduce enrollment. Some students were shifted from Lincoln to Wilson, another rich, White school. What did not happen was a shift of Lincoln students to any of the poorer, non-White schools on the east side of the Willamette River. Lincoln will probably be over enrollment capacity when rebuilt. For example, the students of the Skyline K-8 could have, but were not, reassigned to the closer, smaller, under-enrolled, poorer, and more non-White Roosevelt high school.

Portland Public Schools				
October 2018 count				
Neighboring High Schools				
	% White	F&RP Meals Eligible	Enrollment	Capacity
Lincoln	81.0%	9.0%	1,698	1,700
Roosevelt	31.0%	54.4%	994	1,350



The Oregon Department of Education has done little or nothing to address or promote integration. Is it or is it not the policy of the Department of Education, and/or of this Legislature to desegregate (or integrate) all Oregon public schools?

(2) Start more dual language immersion programs, create high school study abroad programs

The Oregon Department of Education is failing to adapt public education to changes in the world. Advances in transportation and communications have radically increased interactions across national borders. The relative powers among nations are shifting. The relative power of the United States is diminishing as the relative power of other nations, such as China, are rising. It is no longer a unipolar political world. All these changes make it steadily more important to increase the foreign language skills and foreign experiences of future Oregon citizens (today’s students).

For example, consider my estimate that in 2018-19 only 0.5% of Oregon kindergarteners were starting out in Mandarin dual language immersion programs. Given the importance of China to Oregon’s future, this does not reflect a political culture or educational leadership that has thought seriously about Oregon’s future.

Oregon public Mandarin Immersion Programs Kindergarten capacity estimates for 2018-19		
District	School	
Beaverton	HOPE Chinese Charter	52
Portland	Woodstock	52
Portland	MLK Jr	48
Portland	Harrison Park	24
Eugene	Crest Drive	22
Total		198
Statewide kindergarteners 2016-17		41,884
% in Mandarin immersion		0.5%

Oregon has no paid high school study abroad programs for its students, despite the fact that money could be saved by sending some high school students abroad for school years. There are existing high school study abroad programs that cost less than the per student per year costs at Oregon high schools. Oregon’s political and educational leadership just needs to shift from paying for one thing to paying for another for some students. Yet, from brainlessness or political fragility, Oregon’s past leadership has not created any paid high school study abroad programs.

Please get the Oregon Department of Education to promote racial integration, dual language immersion programs, and paid high school study abroad programs.

Thank you – Dave Porter

