



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Middle School Planning & Implementation

Advancing educational equality and opportunity for all PPS students



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## Background

- November 2014 - PPS initiated a District-wide Boundary Review Advisory Committee (D-BRAC) to provide recommendations to the Superintendent on resolving overcrowding, under-enrollment and related population-based issues. The committee recommended a system-wide shift to a mostly K-5 and middle school structure.
- Many PPS schools continue to have insufficient enrollment to provide core program offerings to all students without additional resources. This includes 18 K-8 schools that were reconfigured from K-5s and middle schools in 2005 and 2006.
- July 2016 - The Portland Public Schools' School Board passed Resolution 5308.
- October 2016 - The PPS School board agreed to delay the openings of



## The Charge!

- Establish boundaries, elementary feeder schools, high school articulations and specialized program locations, using the enrollment balancing values framework approved by the PPS Board of Education in October 2015.



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## Middle School Implementation Team

- Initiated a Middle School Implementation Team
- Assigned planning principals
- Researched best practices for middle grades program delivery
- Developed a Middle Grades Framework
- Solicited stakeholder feedback



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## Definition of Terms

- Middle Grades: Grades 4-10 in any school configuration
- Middle School: Grades 6-8 in a stand alone program

## Research Base

- Middle School Implementation Team (MSIT) members attended the Association of Middle Level Educators Convention
- MSIT received professional development and consult from Portland State University
- MSIT reviewed past PPS proposals for delivery of middle grades education
- MSIT received advice on process and engagement from the Panasonic Foundation
- Real time, qualitative stakeholder input from those middle level educators in the field.



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## Components of Middle Grades Framework

- Curriculum: Standards, Course Offerings, Professional Development, Instructional Practices, Assessments, and Materials
- Site Based Decision Making
- Health, Wellness & Safety
- School, Family and Community Partnerships



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## Curriculum

- Curriculum is guided by ***Middle Grade Professional Educators***
- Educators participate in continuous professional development
- Educators employ multiple learning and teaching approaches that respond to young adolescents' diversity and needs
- Assessment and evaluation programs promote quality learning through continuous and authentic strategies



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## Site Based Decision Making

- Decisions are made using an equity lens
- Leadership at every level is courageous and collaborative
- A shared vision is used to promote equitable decisions



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## Health, Wellness, and Safety

- Organizational structures support meaningful relationships and learning
- All school-wide efforts and policies foster physical and psychological health, wellness, safety, and support peaceful interactions

## School, Family and Community



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## Stages Two and Three

- Initiate a middle grades steering committee and subcommittees
- Seek community input from families and students
- Outline and initiate the implementation process for Tubman and Roseway Heights

