



Portland Schools Foundation

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Portland Schools Foundation Announces Grants to Schools Throughout Portland to Support Student Success and Enhance Critical Services

Grants include more than \$820,000 in PPS Equity Grant Funds, a 7% increase over last year

Portland, Ore. (June 2, 2010) – From shocking graduation rates to steep budget cuts, Oregon’s news around education over the last week has been grim. Today, the Portland Schools Foundation offered a glimpse of hope when it released its list of community organizations and schools throughout Portland that are receiving a grant from one of three sources for the 2010-11 school year: the PPS Community-based Equity Grant, The Boeing Company Ninth Grade Counts Teacher Inquiry Grant, and the First Octave Grant.

For the first time ever, PSF made grants to schools outside of Portland Public Schools (through the Boeing and First Octave Grants) as a part of its developing partnership with all five of the major public school districts in Portland. “I am thrilled that we continue to expand the reach of our mission east of 82nd where poverty has disproportionately escalated as inner city gentrification has taken hold,” said PSF CEO Dan Ryan.

The largest of these three grants is the PPS Community-based Equity Grants, which is funded by parents in PPS schools, and support community organizations that provide services to kids in PPS schools. More than \$244,500 was granted to 13 organizations that received anywhere from \$25,000 to \$10,000 ([click here for full list](#)). Earlier this spring more than \$580,000 was awarded to 25 PPS schools through the PPS School-based Equity Grants.

Adam Dunn, a parent volunteer with the Alameda School Foundation and member of the PPS Community-based Equity Grant selection committee, said, “As a parent in Portland Public Schools I am proud that the money we raise not only supports excellence in my kids’ school, but also for kids in school throughout the city of Portland. The organizations selected to receive this grant, and the projects for which they were granted funds, help level Portland’s education playing field so that all kids have the chance to excel in a number of areas from the most basic things like reading, to the more advanced things like traveling abroad or receiving college coaching.”

In its first year, The Boeing Company Ninth Grade Counts Teacher Inquiry Grant is designed to increase the success of off-track ninth-graders by providing funds to train, coach, and support teachers and school leaders to utilize data to track student success and design supports to keep students on-track for graduation. Parkrose School District and David Douglas School District were each awarded a \$7,000 grant and will use the funds to enhance their work around Ninth Grade Counts, an initiative of the Portland Schools Foundation that creates a network of transition support programs for incoming ninth graders at risk of dropping out.

(more)

“The goal of the Portland Schools Foundation is to match the passion of the private sector with the talented reform-minded educators in our schools,” said PSF CEO Dan Ryan. “The Boeing Grant does just that—connecting a global philanthropic business to a need in our schools.”

The Portland Schools Foundation’s First Octave Grants have traditionally been awarded within Portland Public Schools, but this year, for the first time, were also made available to Centennial, David Douglas, Reynolds, and Parkrose School Districts. The grants are awarded to applicants from both the schools and community organizations that demonstrate an ability to strengthen the quality of art and music education for students in the schools. Nine programs were awarded grants from \$500 to \$1,000 ([click here for full list](#)).

PPS Equity Grant Information

The PPS Equity Grants are aimed at creating excellence and equity for all kids in Portland Public Schools. Equity Grant funds are generated from the 33 active local school foundations (LSFs) in Portland Public Schools, whose dedicated parents, teachers, and principals give one-third of what they raise through their fundraising activities to the PPS Equity Fund. The goal is to channel funds into the schools and make a positive impact on Portland youth as quickly as possible; the funds raised in 2009 by LSFs will be used by schools and organizations starting July 1st.

In 2009, PPS parents raised \$2.72 million; of that one-third was given to the Equity Fund. The Equity Fund is then split, with roughly two-thirds supporting PPS School-based Grants and one-third supporting PPS Community-based Grants. The total distributed through the PPS School-based Grants for 2010-11 was \$580,000; the PPS Community-based Grants total was \$244,500.

A committee made up of 12 individuals from education, local schools foundations, PSF leadership, and the community reviewed the applications for the PPS Community-based Equity Grants and made awards based on a set of criteria that included the following: 1) serves students in PPS, 2) focuses on increasing equity and excellence, and 3) supports partnerships between schools and community organizations or family/community involvement in the schools. Thirty-four programs applied for the grants, requesting more than \$735,000 in funding.

Since its establishment, the PPS Equity Fund has attracted national attention for its creative and collaborative approach to addressing disparities in school funding and has awarded more than \$7 million in grants to schools in need.

The Portland Schools Foundation is an independent, community-based organization that mobilizes the public, private and political will and resources needed to guarantee a world-class public education for all Portland children. To learn more visit www.thinkschools.org.