



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 13, 2026

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Portland School Board Votes to Change High School Attendance Boundaries

Vote establishes Jefferson as a comprehensive high school and initiates phased implementation

Jan. 13, 2026 (PORTLAND, Ore.) – Tonight, the Portland Public Schools Board of Education approved two resolutions that together mark a turning point for Jefferson High School and for students across North and Northeast Portland.

The Board first voted to sunset Jefferson’s dual assignment policy and affirm the school as a comprehensive high school, restoring clarity of purpose and long-term commitment to its community. The Board then approved new attendance boundaries and feeder patterns, along with a phased implementation plan with follow-up actions to support students, families, and schools as the changes take effect.

“This vote affirms a long-term commitment to Jefferson as a comprehensive high school and to the students it serves.” said Superintendent Kimberlee Armstrong. “Our responsibility now is to deliver on that commitment through strong programs, sustained investment, and continued partnership with the community.”

The approved boundaries will end Jefferson’s dual assignment policy and establish standard neighborhood attendance boundaries for Jefferson and nearby high schools, beginning with incoming ninth graders in the 2027–28 school year, with full phase-in by 2030–31. Jefferson High School will serve students from the Beach, Boise-Eliot/Humboldt, Chief Joseph, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Faubion, Sabin, Vernon, and Woodlawn school communities. Irvington will feed to Grant High School, while Peninsula

and the Beach Spanish Immersion program will feed to Roosevelt High School. The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Chinese Immersion program will continue to feed to Jefferson.

The Board's action follows months of engagement and analysis, including six community listening sessions with hundreds of participants, a School Board listening session, and multilingual surveys. Community feedback emphasized the need for clarity, stable enrollment, equitable access to academic and extracurricular programming, and transparency about next steps.

"The Board's vote reflects both community input and our responsibility to act," Board Chair Eddie Wang said. "This decision provides direction, accountability, and a clear framework for strengthening Jefferson while maintaining stability across neighboring high schools."

Jefferson High School is currently in the planning phase of a \$465 million modernization, with construction beginning in spring 2026 and new facilities opening in fall 2029. In response to community concerns about timing, construction impacts, and access to programming during the transition, the district is committing to sustained engagement and clear communication as implementation moves forward.

Dr. Jon Franco, Senior Chief of Operations, emphasized that implementation will be deliberate and well resourced. "With the Board's action tonight, we can move forward with coordinated planning that aligns enrollment, staffing, facilities, and modernization," Franco said. "This clarity allows us to focus on execution and support schools through a smooth, well-managed transition."

What Comes Next

Following tonight's vote, PPS is committing to:

- **Phased implementation** beginning in 2027–28 to ensure continuity for current students and families
- **Targeted investment in staffing and academic programming at Jefferson**, including expanded course offerings, electives, and extracurriculars
- **Ongoing engagement with feeder schools and communities**, including bringing Jefferson feeder schools together later this spring to build shared identity and community
- **Regular monitoring and public reporting** on enrollment, programming access, and student outcomes as the plan is implemented

Vice Chair Michelle DePass underscored the importance of follow-through. "This action acknowledges that past policies produced unequal outcomes," DePass said. "Our charge now is to ensure Jefferson's future is shaped by equity, access, and opportunity, not uncertainty."

"This is generational work," Armstrong added. "Our responsibility now is to deliver through action, partnership, and sustained investment on the promise of Jefferson Rising."

More information, including boundary maps and implementation details, is available at www.pps.net/jefferson-is-rising.

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