

Portland Public School District 1st Reading

DATE OF FIRST READING: June 9, 2026

PUBLIC COMMENT FOR

Policy 2.30.010-P: Religious and Cultural Observances

The Portland Public School District is providing Notice of Proposed Revised Policy and Public Comment to offer interested parties reasonable opportunity to submit data or comments on the proposed policies noted below.

Public comment may be submitted in writing directly to the district or through the district website noted below. Written comments must be submitted by 5:00pm on the Last Date for Comment listed below.

**Open for Comment until at least:
June 30, 2026**

Summary: 2.30.010 Religious and Cultural Observances

1st Reading by: **Vice-Chair Michelle DePass**
Portland Public School Board, Policy Committee Chair

Recommended for a 1st Reading by:
Portland Public Schools Board of Education
Policy Committee

Draft Policy Web Site: <http://www.pps.net/draftpolicies>

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Draft Policy Comment Form: <https://forms.gle/VqYbmVA36qqADj6n6>



Date: May 28, 2026

To: School Board

From: Emily Courtnage, Senior Legal Counsel
Sharon Toncray, Chief Legal Officer

CC: Kimberlee Armstrong, Superintendent

Subject: Revisions to Section 2.00.000 Policies (District Administration)

Attached is a staff memo to the Policy Committee, dated April 22, 2026 and updated May 11, 2025, describing proposed updates to the Section 2.00.000 policies, including five revisions and one rescission. The Policy Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed updates on April 27 and May 18, 2026. In the course of their review, Committee members asked staff to make two adjustments; these are detailed in the May 11, 2026 update in the attached staff memo and incorporated in the redlines presented to the Board.

On May 18, 2026, the Policy Committee referred these five revisions and one rescission to the full Board for a first reading.



Date: April 22, 2026 (Updated May 11, 2026)

To: Policy Committee

From: Emily Courtmage, Senior Legal Counsel
Sharon Toncray, Chief Legal Officer

CC: Kimberlee Armstrong, Superintendent

Subject: Proposed Revisions to Section 2.00.000 Policies (District Administration)

May 11, 2026 update:

Based on discussion at the April 27, 2026 Policy Committee meeting, staff made the following updates to the policies presented below:

1. 2.10.010-P (Racial Educational Equity Policy): Add a final sentence to the policy to require that the Superintendent's updates and reports to the Board on student achievement include achievement data disaggregated by race and reflect measures to address racial disparities in student experience and outcomes. This reflects current practice and ensures its continuity.
2. 2.50.020-P (Student Educational Records): Modify Section VI to add “and students 18 years or older with disabilities” and “and federal [law]” to the second sentence.

Staff recommend reviewing, revising, and rescinding the Section 2 policies relating to District Administration as shown in the attached redlines and summarized below. Many of the Section 2 policies have been updated in recent years and now require only minor updates including reformatting and non-substantive language and grammar adjustments. Staff recommend rescission of one policy that is duplicative and outdated.

In reviewing and suggesting changes to the Section 2 policies, we relied in part on review of related Beaverton School District (BSD) and Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) policies. (Beaverton SD adopts Oregon School Boards Association (OSBA) model policies, typically without revision.) In some cases, staff recommend borrowing or adapting language from BSD/OSBA to improve our policies or add important detail. Where applicable, we have attached the relevant policies to each redline for the Board's review.



Staff recommend applying the following non-substantive formatting and language updates to all policies:

- Apply consistent template, heading, margins, spacing, font, etc., based on an updated template developed by the Board Office
- Apply consistent capitalization to Superintendent, Board, etc.
- Correct typos
- Remove hyperlinks
- Update language: Replace all instances of “District” with “PPS” and “shall” with “will”; change “she/he” to “they” or “his/her” to “their”

These non-substantive changes have been incorporated in the attached redlines. (However, in order to render the redlined policies more readily readable with a focus on substantive changes, staff did not redline the format or numbering adjustments.)

Policy	Title	Date of Last Revision	Proposed Action	Summary of Changes
2.10.010-P	Racial Educational Equity Policy	6/2011	Revise	Non-substantive and formatting updates and deletion of obsolete or duplicative language; updated reference to Oregon law
2.20.010-P	Naming School District Property	12/2023	Revise	Non-substantive and formatting updates only
2.30.010-P	Religious and Cultural Observances	1/2024	Revise	Non-substantive and formatting updates only
2.40.020-P	Student Participation	5/2001	Rescind	Outdated and duplicative. Student participation in District Student Council, Board, and Board Committees are addressed in 1.20.012-P . Optional student participation in school site councils is addressed in 7.10.010-P . See also 4.40.010-P (Student Participation in School Affairs).



2.50.010-P	Public Access to District Records	7/2018	Revise	Non-substantive updates and alignment of appeal procedure with Oregon Public Records Law.
2.50.020-P	Student Education Records	10/2023	Revise	Update with language adapted from BSD/OSBA policy



Religious and Cultural Observances

We respect and protect the constitutional rights of our students, families, and employees to practice and observe their religion or to practice no religion at all. We also respect and protect our students, families, and employees' rich and diverse cultural observances and practices. At all times, we seek to balance those important individual rights with the constitutional requirement that PPS, as a public-school district, may not favor or promote a particular religion over another. And, at all times, we encourage all students, families, and staff to show respect, tolerance, and curiosity about religious and cultural practices that differ from their own. These differences and our acceptance of them make our school community an inclusive and welcoming community in which all students can authentically thrive.

I. Excused Absences & Other Accommodations

Students and families may request accommodations to enable them to observe their religious and cultural practices. Those accommodations may include excused absences for religious instruction or holiday observances. Requests for absences or other accommodations should be in writing from a student's parent/guardian directed to a teacher and/or principal at the student's school.

A. Classes. Students may be excused from classes for their individual religious or cultural practices without penalty. Students who have missed an assignment or assessment must be given a reasonable opportunity to make up that test or assessment. Make-up opportunities will not be required of a student on the school day immediately after a student is absent from school to observe a religious or cultural holiday.

B. Co-Curricular and Extracurricular activities. Students may also be excused from co-curricular and extracurricular activities for their individual religious or cultural practices without penalty.

II. Identification of Major Religious Holidays and Cultural Observances

As part of the annual school calendar creation and adoption process, the Superintendent ~~will~~shall identify major religious and cultural holidays in our community using legally acceptable methods to do so. ~~PPS~~The District and each of its schools should avoid scheduling grade-, school- or district-wide events (e.g., Back-to-School nights, all-school assemblies, parent-teacher conferences, School Board meetings) on those dates. Such events can be scheduled on major religious holidays only if such scheduling is reasonably necessary to carry out the proper functioning of a school program or, course of study, ~~or~~ to avoid an unreasonable burden on other students; or if such scheduling is outside the control of ~~PPS~~District employees. Staff will inform students and parents of plans as far in advance as possible so that conflicts with religious or cultural observances can be avoided if possible and otherwise accommodated if not.

III. Non-~~PPS~~District-Sponsored Events

When school or ~~PPS~~District events are scheduled and controlled by organizations other than ~~PPS~~the District (e.g., OSAA, Outdoor School, national testing organizations), ~~PPS~~the District ~~will~~shall advocate with those organizations that such events are not held on major religious or cultural holidays.

Adopted 1/2024