



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

prepared & empowered

May 7, 2018

Dear District Staff,

I am writing to inform you that Portland has agreed to serve as one of six districts in the US to participate in a research collaboration between scholars at Boston College, Harvard, Rutgers and the University of Washington. The goal of this research collaboration is to hear directly from educators and school staff about the well-being of our students, particularly how children and youth from immigrant families are faring during these times of great change.

I know that time is always at a premium and greatly respect the many commitments that you have, as well as your personal obligations, and I do not ask for your time lightly. Because of our significant immigrant student population and our Portland Promise commitment to diversity as one of our greatest assets, I have agreed to engage us in this study. As such, we invite all staff to participate in a 20-30 minute survey. The research team has allotted funds to support incentives for your participation. More on that below.

The Goal

As district and school staff, you have vital information to share and this project seeks to elevate your voices. Through your participation, you will have an opportunity to see results from the study and engage with other educators from districts with similar demographics about these issues. The data we receive and the partnership with the universities and the other 5 participating districts will help inform how we can better serve our immigrant families, something that is important to all of us at PPS.

The Survey and Incentives

On May 10th, you will receive a link to participate in a survey that should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete. The link will come from Dr. Rebecca Lowenhaupt, a professor at Boston College and will be sent by Portland Public Schools on her behalf. The survey will be available for two weeks, closing on May 24th. **Your participation is 100% voluntary but given the subject and the potential benefits that the District will reap, highly encouraged.**

The W.T. Grant Foundation and the Spencer Foundation have supported this work by offering incentives for your participation. **The first 400 participants will receive \$20 gift cards.** Note that, to receive the gift card, you will be required to enter your name and contact information. We have been assured that your personal information will be treated confidentially, that you will not be identifiable and that your personal information will not be used except to provide the gift card, if you are among the first 400 to complete the survey.

Should you have any questions about this survey project, feel free to contact Rebecca Lowenhaupt at rebecca.lowenhaupt@bc.edu. Thank you for all you do, and for taking this opportunity to share your perspectives.

Best Regards,

Superintendent, Portland Public Schools