



Portland Empowered champions student and parent voice with a specific focus on engaging those who have been historically under represented. We reduce barriers and create opportunities for emerging youth and adult leaders so that youth in Portland public high schools are successful in high school and beyond.

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT MANIFESTO

As the parents, students, and community members who make up Portland Empowered, we are committed to ensuring that Portland's public high schools engage parents and communities in a way that...

- **Values face to face relationships.**

This means frequent opportunities for in-person communication (not just email and robocall outreach) between parents, teachers, board, and administrators. Strategies should involve the many parents who can serve as ambassadors with other parents in their communities.

- **Creates safe spaces where everyone is welcome and valued as an expert.**

Parents and families need to bring their experience and expertise as equal partners in students' education. We must seek active participation by all parents, especially those who face extra barriers. Real two-way communication requires extra effort to make sure people feel safe speaking up.

- **Requires parents, schools and communities to work together to improve results.**

We need a shared understanding of "student success" that reflects the visions of parents and youth as well as educators. This means creating opportunities to explore together what is working or not working, and why.

- **Works hard to include the whole range of voices in decision-making processes.**

Parents should be aware of possible changes before final decisions are made at the school or district level. Opportunities for input should be widely shared. Schools should track how many parents are involved in decision-making, and consider who is not represented in discussions.

- **Is accessible to parent and community leaders from diverse backgrounds.**

We need to engage all types of families. Meetings and gatherings should be held in spaces, times, and formats that are accessible and friendly to parents. Parents and school personnel should have easy access to quality interpretation whenever needed.

- **Has sufficient resources devoted to it.**

Lack of funds is no excuse for leaving families out. We must work together to identify what it takes to do parent engagement right and find the necessary resources.