

Portland Public Schools  
Project Abstract

Portland Public Schools (PPS) proposes *Personalized, Relevant, Engaged for Postsecondary (PREP)*, an Early Phase EIR project. The *PREP* project will support improved graduation and post-secondary transition rates for high need and historically underserved youth experiencing poverty, homelessness, and involvement in the foster care and the juvenile justice systems under this competition's **Absolute Priority 1** (Supporting High Need Students). In response to **Absolute Priority 4** (Increasing Postsecondary Preparedness), PPS will provide students with intensive social-emotional support and develop and implement a personalized project-based learning model connected to high growth/high demand career pathways. Project objectives include: 1) Improving student engagement and persistence through project-based learning and social-emotional support; 2) Increasing student academic achievement; and 3) Increasing the percentage of students earning dual high school/college credit. PPS anticipates the following outcomes: 1) 4% increase in student retention; 2) 10% increase in high school graduation; and 3) 5% of students receiving Career Pathway certificates will continue in a career technical strand. *PREP* has identified three district alternative high schools (grades 9-12) as pilot sites in years 2 and 3: 1) Metropolitan Learning Center; 2) Alliance Alternative High School at Meek Campus; and 3) Alliance Alternative High School at Benson Campus. Beginning in year 3, PPS will replicate the model in the district's Day and Residential Treatment and Community-Based Organization middle and high schools. PPS will partner with Education Northwest, Oregon's Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Portland Community College, and Portland State University. A total of 2,250 PPS students will be served through *PREP*, with up to 20,000 additional students impacted through district-wide replication. Finally, *PREP* will disseminate lessons learned and support scale and replication of the model throughout the region and nation.