

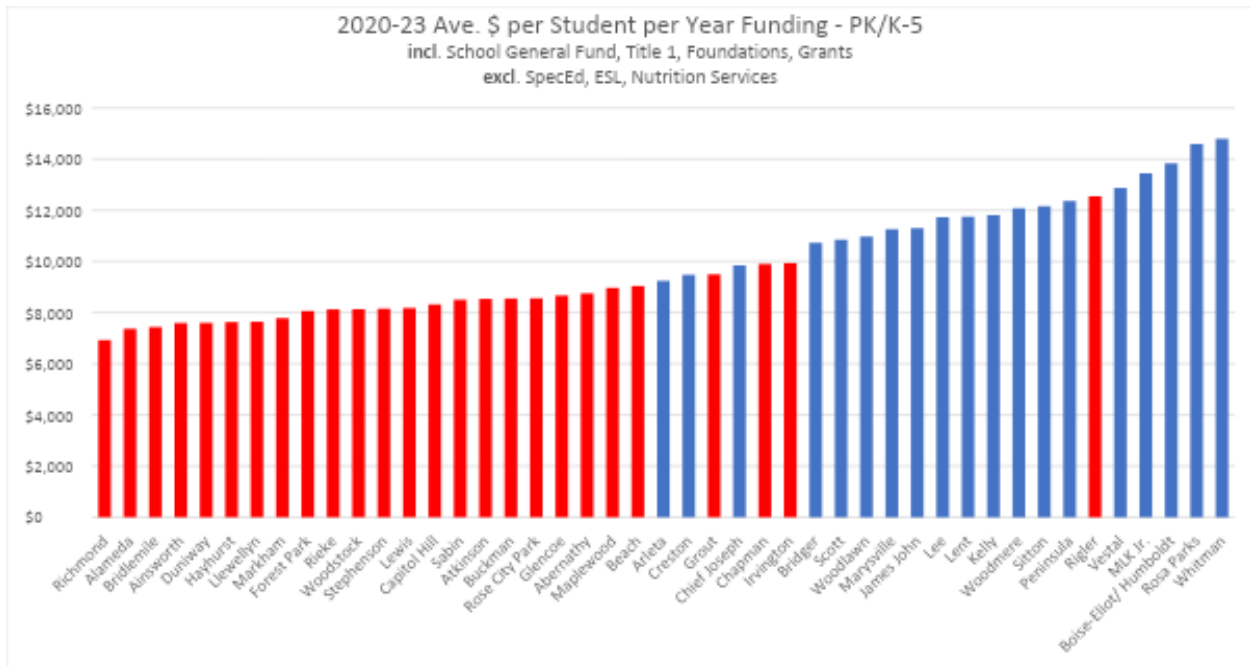
Why do Foundations Fund Staff?

The Rieke Foundation and all School foundations support PPS's innovative budgeting model, the Racial Equity and Social Justice (RESJ) program, which provides underperforming schools more funding to help improve student outcomes. Under the RESJ model, schools with the highest numbers of historically underserved, and low socio-economic students, receive the most funding per student. While we support the RESJ funding model, we recognize it creates gaps in staffing at schools like Rieke. We fundraise to help Principal Jeans staff the school.

What RESJ funding looks like across the district.

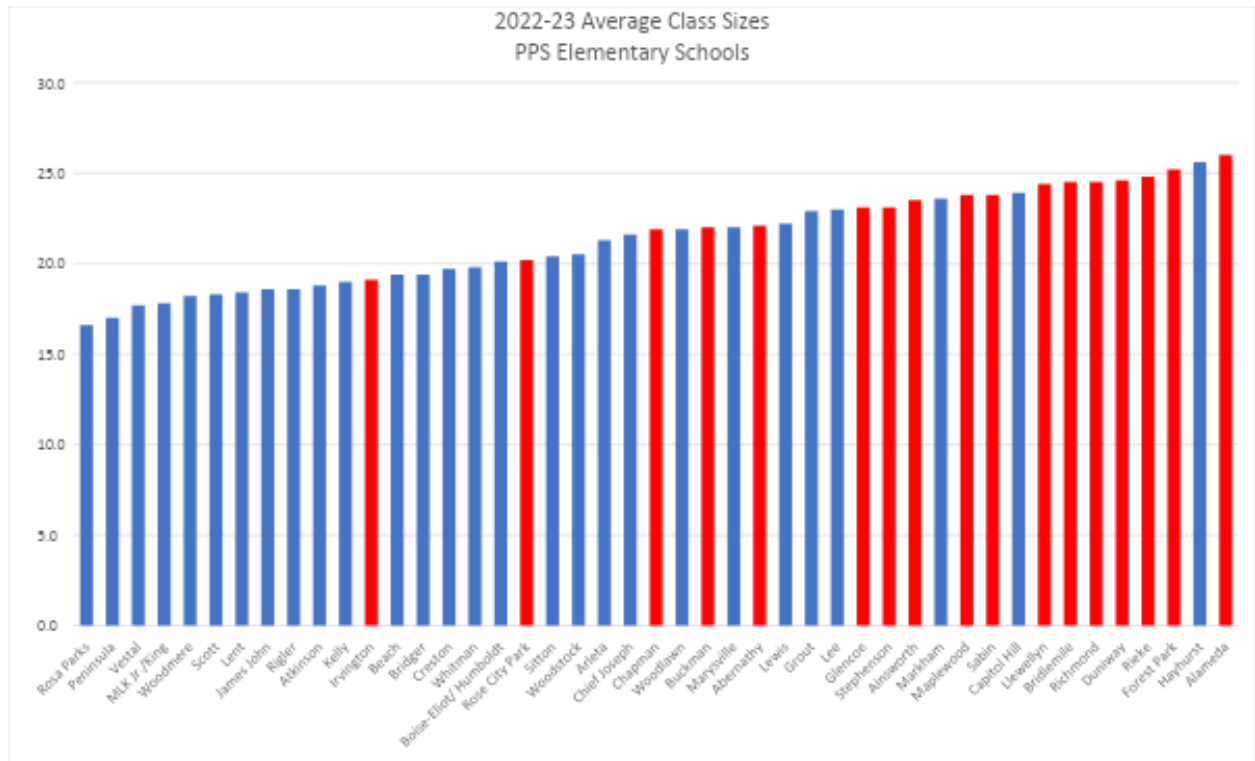
The following charts show per-student funding and average class sizes.

Funding Per-Student



Lines in red indicate schools with active foundations. Source, page 10-11 PPS 2022-23 Proposed Budget.

Average Class Sizes of PPS Elementary Schools



Source: [Portland Public Schools Class Size Detail, 2022-23](#)

What does the Foundation have to do with Rieke Art?

PPS only budgets for Rieke to have part-time art. The Foundation currently raises funds to support Ms. Jill as a full time teacher (noted as the best in PPS). Last year, foundation funding restrictions by the PPS Board meant that we lost our part-time EA.

Why is this happening?

PPS School Board member Julia Brim-Edwards and others believe that school foundations shouldn't be allowed to help hire teachers and staff. Yet, PPS has no plan to fund these positions for us. The Rieke Foundation supports a comprehensive review of the current practice to decide a plan going forward. However, just ending the practice, without a plan, will not benefit anyone.

Last month, Director Brim-Edwards introduced a proposal to the Policy Committee to eliminate school foundations. The proposal offers no replacement source for the \$2.5 million currently raised by school foundations throughout Portland and shifts all teacher and staff fundraising to the Fund for PPS. If this proposal passes the committee, and then the full board, **all foundations would be eliminated by June.**

Save PPS 2023 Advocacy Timeline:

In April, the Save PPS Foundation committee submitted a proposal that would keep school foundations and boost staffing at the Fund for PPS to fundraise for teachers and staff at schools who don't have foundations. Our proposal was not considered by the Board Policy Committee.

In June, we met with Reform PPS and the Fund for PPS folks to try to collaborate. We agreed to be open to a plan that could eventually eliminate foundations. District staff suggested we find a resolution through the Innovation Studio at PPS. We agreed and were waiting for the process to start.

In August, Brim Edwards asked Reform to submit a proposal to eliminate school foundations this year. We were notified after the proposal was submitted. A few weeks later, we finally met with the Innovation Studio and the Fund for PPS. In the meeting, the Reform folks criticized the Innovation Studio's process and stood behind their proposal. We pushed to adopt the process yet no plan was agreed on. They originally wanted to kick this process off in November, but due to the possible PAT strike, would need to push it off a little bit further.

Today, we require the Innovation Studio be used and hope an ideal solution is found that all parties can agree on.

The Innovation Studio

The Studio was developed to address challenging topics and address policy recommendations at scale. The key requirements for those involved include agreement to participate on a journey that will sometimes feel uncomfortable or not have all desired outcomes, and integrity, specifically respecting different perspectives.

There are 3 key terms that are embraced:

1. **History** - what's the history behind the issue at hand, how does it exist at a systemic level, how have people previously and currently been affected by it
2. **Healing**- the assumption is that people have been hurt or impacted by disagreements and it's important to acknowledge and accept that hurt so that the healing process can begin
3. **Humility**- all involved must be willing to be open to new ideas, information, and be open to to the experiences and realities of others

In the "Exploratory Phase", the Innovation Studio focuses on how different people are experiencing whatever subject is at hand.

In the "Inspiration Phase", the research is about how other communities or organizations have

tried to address similar issues (in this example, looking at other foundation structures in other urban areas around the country and what has or has not worked).

In the “Ideation Phase”, the parties involved will brainstorm, put together concepts, and then reflect back to the community. There must be a commitment to collaboration from the onset. There would be a team of representatives that would include a variety of individuals from the community, possibly including students, board members, parents, staff, and administration. The priority is to bring a diverse set of people to the table.

The timeline can be set by the committee.