

EQUITY FOR ALL STUDENTS IN PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PPSEquity.org

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School Equity Web Site Launched

Site features community forum, blog and advocacy information

Portland, Ore. February 1, 2008 – In the face of persistent inequity in the distribution of Portland Public Schools' educational investment, a new Web site has been launched to help inform, organize, and advocate for school funding equity.

The site, *PPS Equity*, includes a community discussion forum, a blog, and information on taking action to improve educational opportunities for all students in Portland Public Schools. Founder and Editor Steve Rawley said he created the site to better facilitate community discussions that have been taking place for some time now on his personal blog, More Hockey Less War.

“All of our children deserve a first-rate education, and nobody should have to leave their neighborhood to get it,” writes Rawley on *PPS Equity*. “Together we can lay the foundation for a 21st century Portland where no children are denied opportunity based on the color of their skin or the address on their door.”

Rawley hopes this site will encourage more citizens to become involved in advocacy for district-wide equity.

About *PPS Equity*: Portland Public Schools' policy decisions over the years have led to a two-tiered secondary school system, and an unfair, uneven and confusing system of primary schools. *PPS Equity* is a community-created resource for all PPS stakeholders to organize and advocate for equity in our district's public investment. *PPS Equity* can be found on the World Wide Web at PPSEquity.org.

About Steve Rawley: Steve Rawley is a North Portland father of two, neighborhood schools advocate, and blogger. He has been a consistent critic of the school district's open transfer policy, and the two-tiered education system that comes with it. His color-coded maps published in September of 2007 graphically showed the district's divestment from our poorest neighborhoods. He later issued a report to the school board, *Charting Open Enrollment Transfer and Neighborhood Funding Inequities*, showing over \$40 million dollars of annual divestment from the poorest neighborhoods of Portland.