STAND WITH STEPHENSON AND ALL PPS SCHOOLS

Right-plan before you right-size: The Case for Keeping Stephenson Elementary Open

Closing Stephenson would disproportionately impact a geographically isolated community that relies on the school as a central hub for education, childcare, emergency preparedness, and neighborhood connection.

Puts Federal Funding in question locally
Closing Stephenson would move 70% of students to Markham, raising enrollment from 312 to 519 and lowering the poverty rate from 38.3% to 25.7%—below the 33% Title I threshold. Approximately 130 low-income students could lose or see reduced services, and PPS has not explained how Markham-specific funds would be replaced.

Removes Community Asset for Emergencies
Stephenson is an officially designated Basic Earthquake Emergency Communication Node by the City of Portland, and the neighborhood has no comparable public space, an empty, unkept building will make our neighborhood less safe.

Ends Walking and Biking to School
Nearly 30% of Stephenson students live within one mile today with a thriving walking and biking community. Under scenario A, no students will be able to safely walk or bike to their new school. In addition to increasing bus costs and traffic near the region's two I-5 on ramps, this conflicts with Resolution 7307 on walkability and safe routes. Why are you moving more kids towards more crowded locales than away from them?

Creates Afterschool Childcare Gaps
Stephenson Child Care Association (SCCA) provides essential after-school care for roughly 140 families whom depend on working parents. Closing a school without a clear plan for afterschool childcare has real economic consequences, making it harder for parents to remain employed and reducing workforce participation in our community.

Stephenson Serves a Unique Geographical Role
Located in Portland's deep southwest corner, Stephenson fulfills a role similar to Skyline in northwest Portland, providing a neighborhood school for a community separated from much of the city by significant geographic barriers and limited transportation routes in a primarily residential area.

Closes a Top Performing School
Stephenson is a top-performing school: ranked 7th of 80 PPS schools with state test results and holding a 10/10 GreatSchools rating. PPS's own auditors say displaced students benefit most when moved to substantially stronger schools.

Review Stephenson's full open letter and data sources at
www.stephensonpta.org