



**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Government Relations**

February 2, 2023

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Rules:

Although I am the superintendent of Portland Public Schools (PPS), I am not the person who comes to mind when families think about our district. They think of the amazing, dedicated staff who support their children every day – who protect, feed, educate, and care for them.

I write to advocate for HB 2708 so that we all set aside time and space to celebrate these on-the-ground workers. Classified employees bring our school district to life, and make life better wherever they serve across Oregon.

PPS's classified employees know the deep meaning of collaboration. On any given day, they work directly with students, educators, parents, volunteers, business partners, and community members on the frontlines. They perform a wide range of essential work:

- security
- food services
- office and clerical work
- school maintenance and operations
- transportation
- academic assistance
- paraeducator services
- library and media assistance
- computer services

Put simply, our district could not function without the work they do.

Establishing Classified Employees Week allows us to recognize and celebrate the many phenomenal people who serve and support children and keep our schools up and running each and every day.

At PPS, we are deeply grateful for our classified staff members' service, and we urge you to honor them with a dedicated week of celebration.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Guerrero  
Superintendent, Portland Public Schools