

Spring 2021

# Portland Public Schools

Key Insights from the Successful Schools Survey





## Key Insights from the Successful Schools Survey

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# Introduction

## *Background*

Since the 2018-19 school year, Portland Public Schools (PPS) has partnered with Panorama Education to better understand student, family, and staff perceptions of

## *Survey Methodology*

### **How many people took the survey?**

Figure 2 below shows the number of responses received on the Spring 2021 survey. See pages 20-25 of the appendix for a demographic breakdown of respondents.

**Figure 2: Number of Survey Responses**

### **How are results reported?**

Survey questions are scored using a method known as percent favorable. When a question is scored as "74% favorable," this means that 74% of respondents selected a favorable answer choice. Questions are grouped thematically by topic. Topic scores are then calculated as an average of the percent favorable responses to each question within the topic.

**Example Question: How much e**



## Executive Summary

Key strengths and suggested areas of growth from the Spring 2021 Successful Schools Survey results.



## PPS Successful Schools Survey Results

*A summary of the district's strengths and suggested areas of growth, each supported by a snapshot of survey data. For a more in depth analysis, see Results Overview (pages 8-17).*

### AREAS OF STRENGTH

OVERALL, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CONTINUES TO BE A STRENGTH REPORTED BY STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF

RESPECT ACROSS THE COMMUNITY

## AREAS OF GROWTH

PERCEPTIONS OF SCHOOL SAFETY VARY SIGNIFICANTLY BY STUDENT, FAMILY, AND STAFF



## Results Overview

A summary of results by respondent group.

Students (3-5)

Students (6-12)

Families

School Leaders

Staff - Instructional and Non-Instructional



## Students, 3rd-5th Grade

Students were asked for feedback on a number of climate and SEL topics; a summary of the 6,118 district-wide responses is presented in Figure 3 below.

**Figure 3. Summary of Spring 2021 Student (3-5) Survey Results**

	Percent Favorable	Compared to Others Nationally (Elementary)	Change Since 2020*
School Safety	73%	n/a	+10
Teacher-Student Relationships	71%	40th percentile	+6
School Climate	70%	70th percentile	+14
Sense of Belonging	65%	50th percentile	+5
Student Engagement	54%	n/a	n/a
Student Relationships	54%	n/a	n/a
Engagement	53%	30th percentile	+2

\*2020 survey results included grades 4-5 only. 2021 survey results include grades 3-5.

### What are Elementary Students Saying?

What did students identify as PPS' greatest strengths?

- **School Safety:** 87% of students say that is 'not likely at all' or only 'slightly likely' that some from school will bully them online.
- **Teacher-Student Relationships:** 91% say that teachers are 'quite' or 'extremely' respectful towards them.
- **School Climate:** 82% say that teachers are 'frequently' or 'almost always' excited to be teaching their classes.

What did students identify as PPS' biggest areas for growth?

- **Engagement:** Just 40% of students respond favorably when asked "How difficult or easy is it for you to try hard on your schoolwork right now?".
- **Student Relationships:** Just 37% of students say they feel 'quite' or 'extremely' connected to other students at school right now.

How have student experiences changed from last year to this year?

### What are Elementary Students Saying?

What notable differences based on student background appear in the data?

#### Immersion Program Enrollment

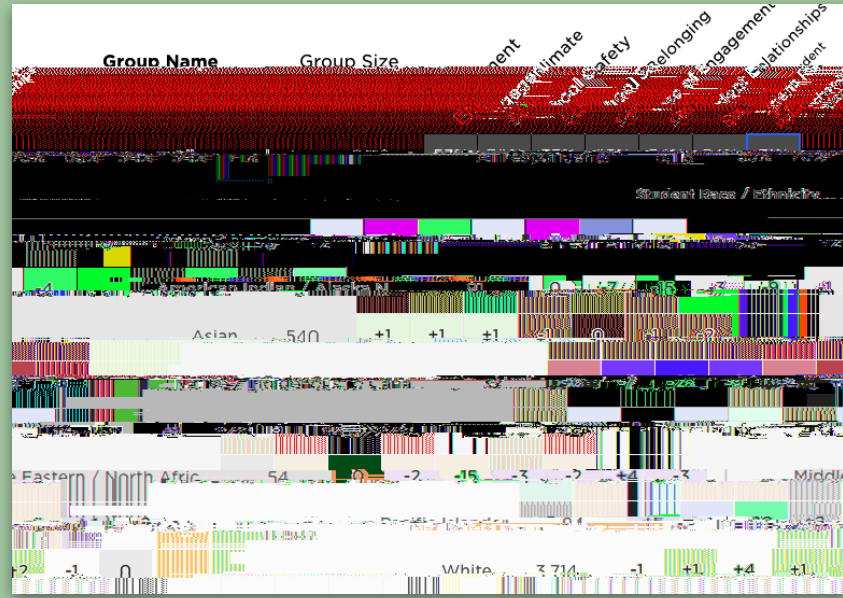
- Students enrolled in an immersion program 7 points less favorably than those who are not when it comes to School Safety.

#### Student Grade Level

- On most topics, 3rd graders respond most favorably while 5th graders respond least favorably. However, this trend is reversed when it comes to School Safety and Teacher-Student Relationships.

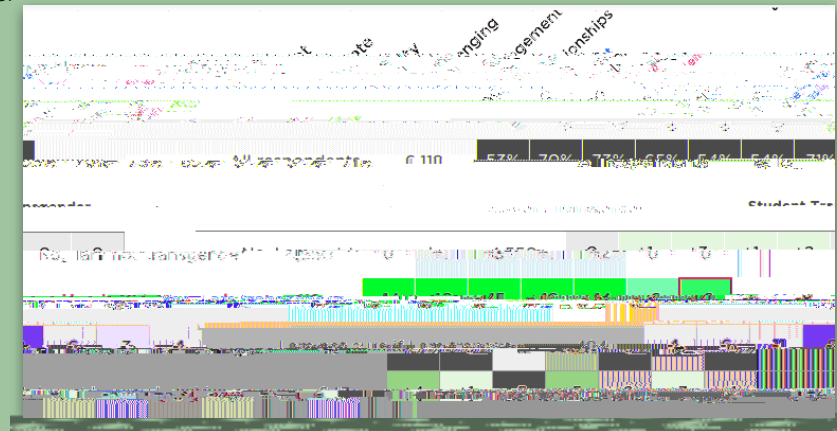
#### Student Race/Ethnicity

- School Safety sees high response volatility among student race groups, with non-White or Asian students all reporting well below average.



#### Student Transgender

- Students identifying as transgender or not sure report well below average across all topics.



## **Students, 6th-12th Grade**

Students were asked for feedback on a number of climate, SEL, and equity topics; a summary of the 12,451 district-wide responses is presented in Figure 4 below.



# Family

Family members were asked for feedback on a number of climate, communication, and safety topics; a summary of the 5,782 district-wide responses is presented in Figure 5 below.

**Figure 5. Summary of Spring 2021 Family Survey Results**

	Percent Favorable	Compared to Others Nationally	Change Since 2020
Barriers to Engagement	80%	30th percentile	-1
School Safety			

## School Leaders

School leaders were asked for feedback on a number of climate, engagement, and leadership topics; a summary of the 128 district-wide responses is presented in Figure 6 below. This is the first year that school leaders were surveyed so there is no change over time data available.

**Figure 6. Summary of Spring 2021 School Leaders Survey Results**

	Percent Favorable	Compared to Others Nationally
Sta -Family Relationships	71%	80th percentile
School Climate	70%	n/a

## Instructional & Non-Instructional Sta

Sta were asked for feedback on a number of climate, engagement, SEL, and leadership topics; a summary of the 1,824 instructional and 1,046 non-instructional district-wide responses is presented in Figure 7 below.

**Figure 7. Summary of Spring 2021 Staff Survey Results**

	Instructional Sta			Non-Instructional Sta		
	<i>Percent Favorable</i>	<i>Compared to Others Nationally</i>	<i>Change since 2020</i>	<i>Percent Favorable</i>	<i>Compared to Others Nationally</i>	<i>Change since 2020</i>
School Safety	78%	n/a	+10	83%	n/a	+8
Educating All Students	77%	50th percentile	+3	-	-	-
Explicit SEL Instruction	76%	n/a	n/a	84%	n/a	n/a
Sta -Leadership Relationships	73%	50th percentile	+12	81%	70th percentile	+5
Student Mindset	73%	50th percentile	+3	-	-	-
Focus on Adult SEL	72%	n/a	n/a	78%	n/a	n/a
Sta -Family Relationships	68%	70th percentile	+2	66%	60th percentile	-1
SEL Integrated with Academic Instruction	67%	n/a	n/a	76%	n/a	n/a
School Climate	62%	50th percentile	+9	68%	60th percentile	+8
Teacher Burnout & Retention	59%	n/a	n/a	70%	n/a	n/a
Faculty Growth Mindset	56%	30th percentile	+3	-	-	-

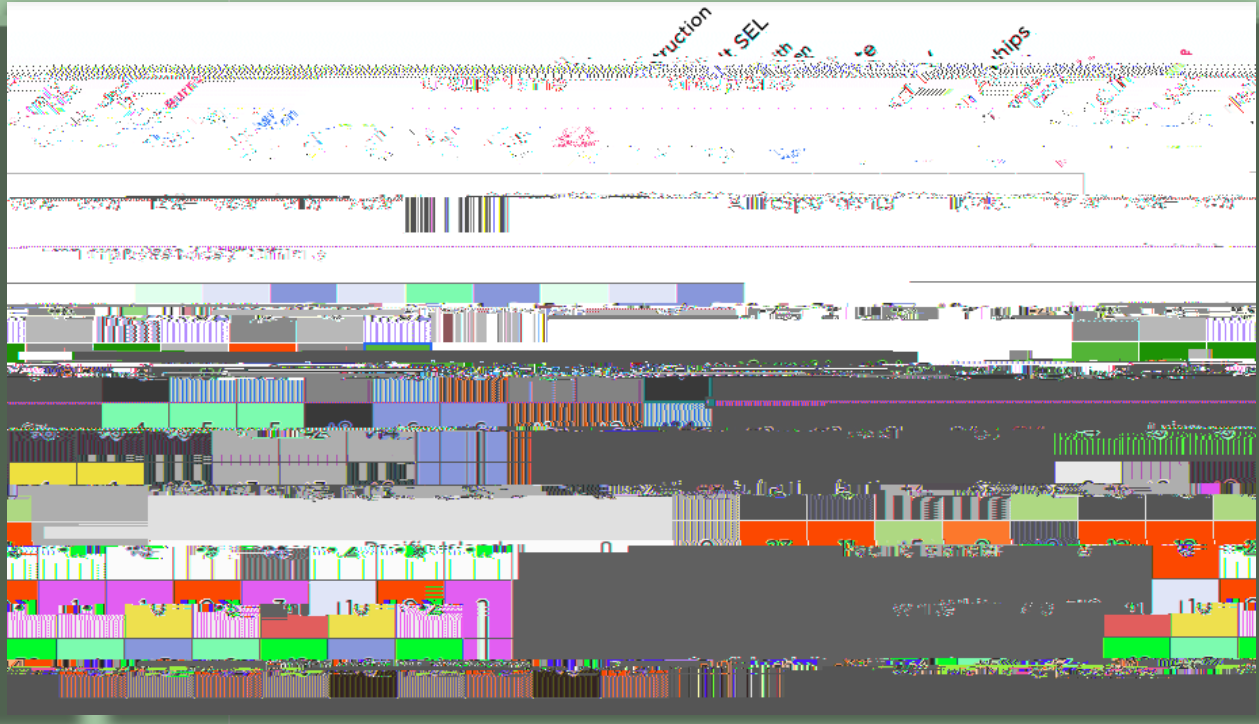
### What are Staff Members Saying?

What did staff identify as PPS' biggest areas for growth?

- **Staff Relationships:** Both instructional and non-instructional staff



Non-Instructional



## Next Steps

The strengths and suggested areas of growth presented on pages 6-7 of this report and recapped in Figure 8 below can be a good starting point when considering next steps to take from the results.

**Figure 8. Recap of District Strengths and Suggested Areas of Growth based on the 2021 Successful Schools Survey**

STRENGTHS	AREAS OF GROWTH
OVERALL, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION CONTINUES TO BE A STRENGTH REPORTED BY STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF	PERCEPTO 0420 551 cm BTyt W n h 3bc

In conjunction with the strengths and growths suggested above as well as the results overviews presented in pages 9-17, it is important to also examine the survey results in their entirety as a community and as an individual. Each data user will notice and wonder different details based on their role within the community, their experiences, as well as their interests and biases.

Your own analysis of survey results will ultimately lead to you to take action. Different schools, different school leaders, and different teachers will have different pathways to change so it is important to consider which levers may be the most effective within your community.

In this unique school year in particular, where connections among students, staff, and families prove more challenging to uphold as shown in the survey data, one area of focus might be on student and staff well-being. Panorama Education offers a wealth of resources around the social-emotional learning and well-being of students and adults, alike. A good starting point might be this [Mindfulness Strategies for Adult and Student Well-Being slide deck](#)<sup>1</sup> that can be shared across the district. The goal of this presentation is to cultivate self-awareness and self-regulation skills by practicing mindfulness strategies as a community.

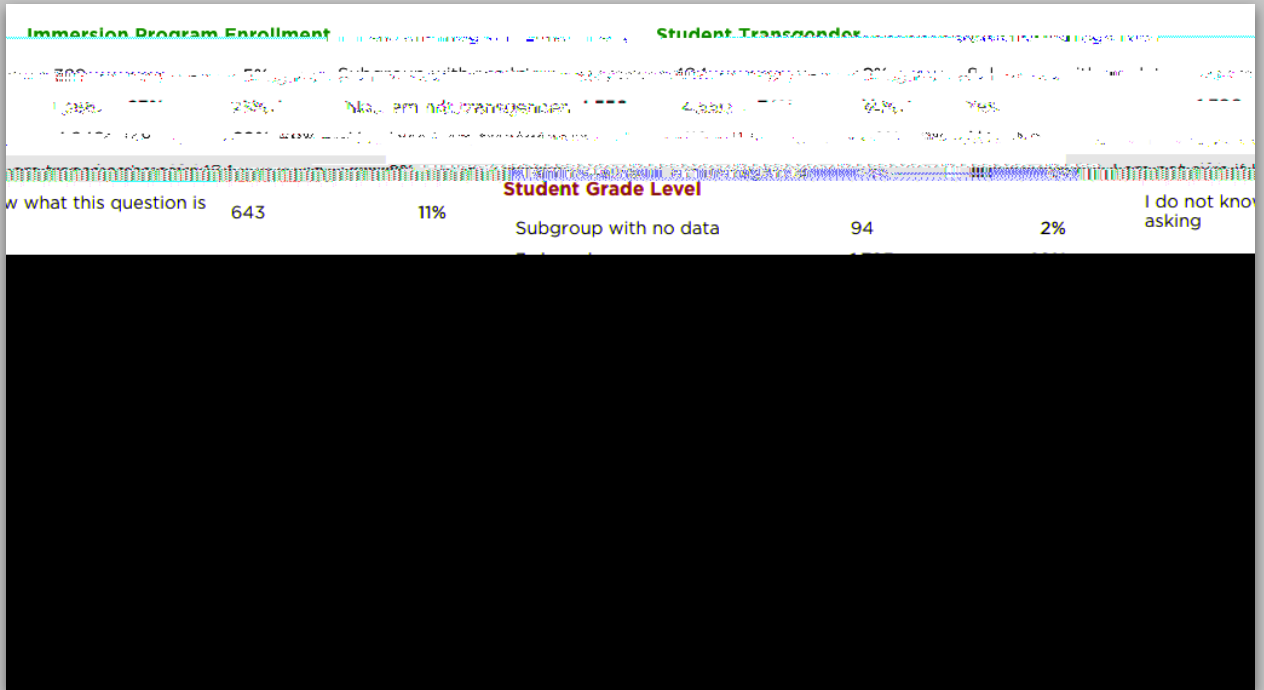
Finally, don't forget about what is working; utilize what is working well - investment in diversity and inclusion and respect across the community - to boost areas of growth. All stakeholder groups report a number of areas to be celebrated and built upon in these unique times of learning.

## **Appendix**

A breakdown of respondent demographic groups.

# Appendix

## Demographic Breakdown: Students, 3-5





# Appendix

*Demographic Breakdown: Students, 6-12*

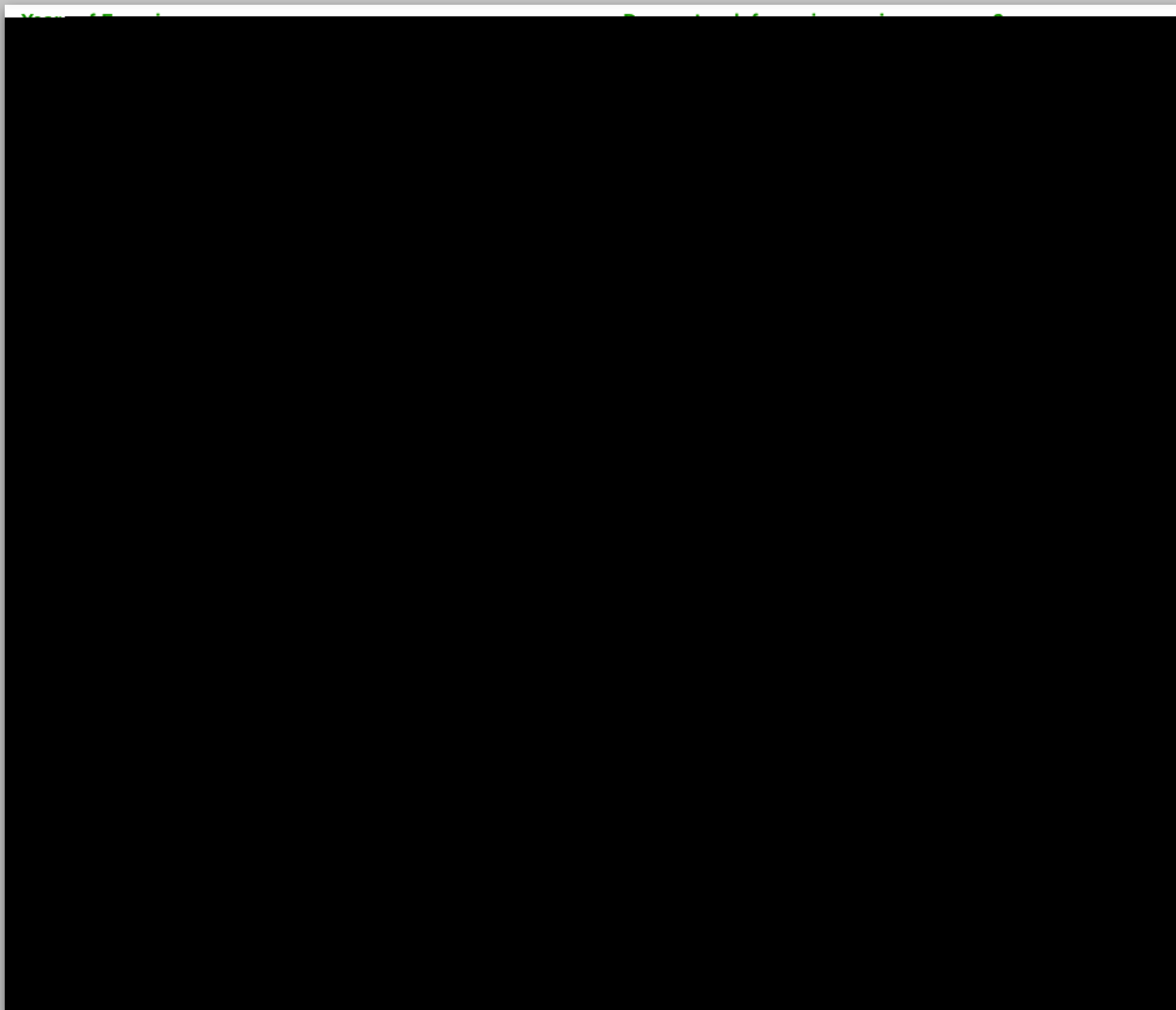
# Appendix

## Demographic Breakdown: Family

Student Grade Level		Parent / Guardian Gender			
4%	Subgroup with no data	123	2%	Subgroup with no data	203
68%	Pre-Kindergarten	18	0%	"GIRL"/Woman	4,991
27%	Kindergarten	383	7%	Boy / Man	1,574
0%	Other	0	0%	Other	0
0%	Gender	0	0%	Other	0
4%	Grade	540	9%	Grade	598

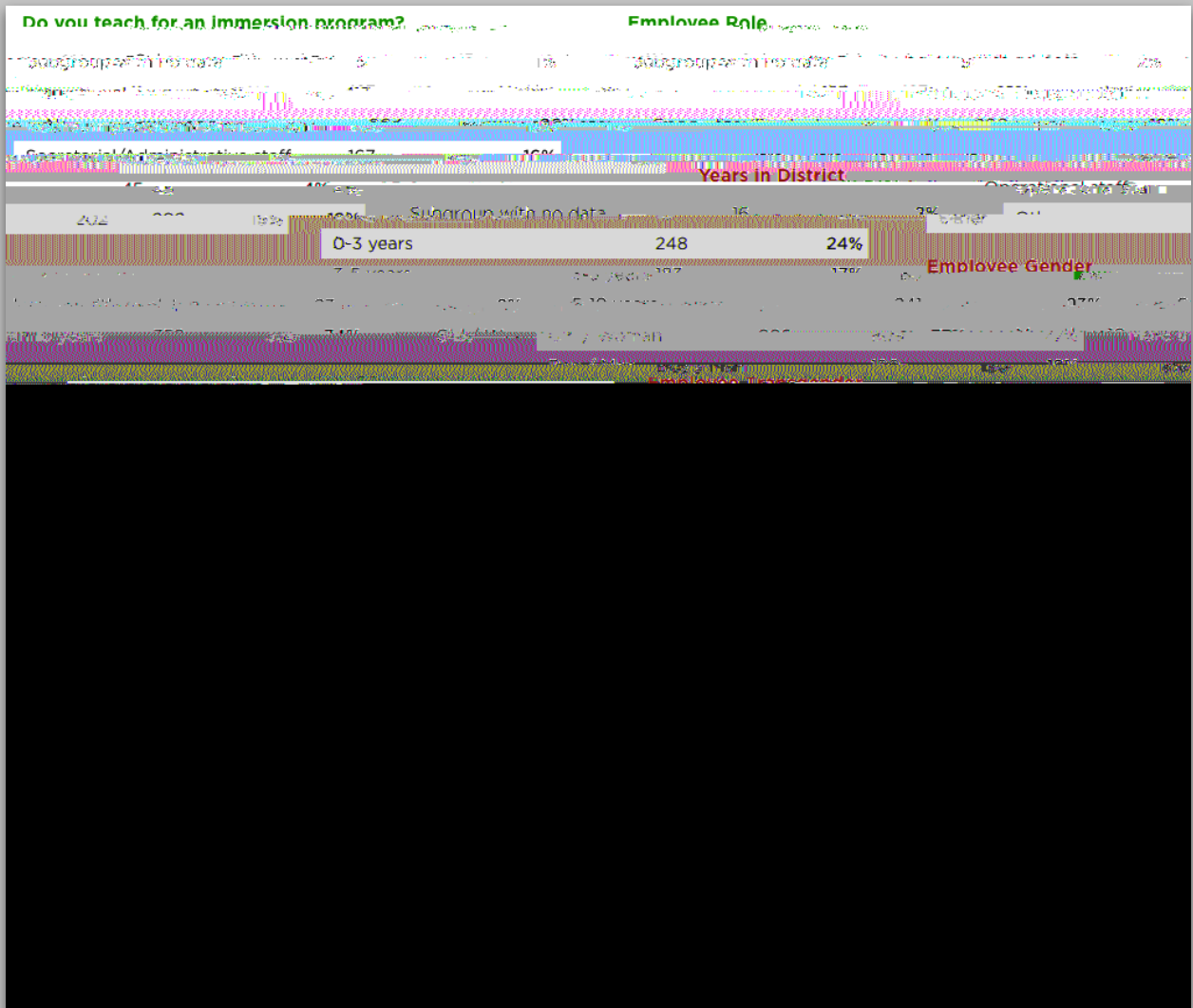
# Appendix

## *Demographic Breakdown: Instructional Staff*



# Appendix

## Demographic Breakdown: Non-Instructional Staff

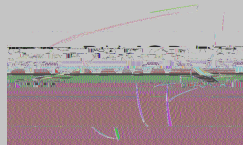




# Appendix

## *Demographic Breakdown: School Leaders*





## Portland Public Schools

Prepared by  
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