

ADVERTISEMENT

Find Your Graduating Class



I graduated in: 1997
1987
1977
1967
1957



LOCALLY OWNED BY PAMPLIN MEDIA GROUP

PortlandInsight



News | Opinion | Features | Sports | Sustainable Life | Greenlight Classifieds | Contact Us

Find a story
(Search tips)

Keywords

Writer

Month

Year

Search

PortlandTribune
Find a paper

Enter a street name
or a 5 digit zip code

Search

Subscribe today!

Breaking News Email Alerts

The Portland Tribune
Opinion feed

RSS

EDITORIAL

Chalk these up as priorities

The Portland Tribune 1.4 hours ago

Providing more money to Oregon's underfunded public schools certainly is a worthy cause. Allocating those dollars with specific outcomes in mind is an even better objective.

That's the approach the Oregon Chalkboard Project took as it prepared its 2007 legislative priorities for improving K-12 student performance and accountability among teachers and administrators. The Legislature ought to give significant consideration to the Chalkboard Project's work and adopt most, if not all, of the group's recommendations.

The Chalkboard Project's proposals could run into opposition from what at first would seem an unlikely source – the education lobby. Unions, school boards and even administrators may fear the loss of local control if the Legislature mandates ideas such as capping class sizes in kindergarten and first grade, or requiring greater financial accountability from school districts.

But one thing school lobbyists should appreciate is a group that's done its homework. On that score, the Chalkboard Project has earned its credibility.

Improving student performance

Chalkboard's legislative agenda emerges from the group's three-year

AUTO WRECK?
BACK/NECK PAIN, HEADACHES?



For a FREE Report
1-800-759-7502
www.911MVareport.com
Dr. Michael Arnot, D.C.

SPECIAL SECTIONS

ReTHINKING PORTLAND
Transportation
Destination Unknown



NEIGHBORHOODS



Exploring Portland's many diverse districts

PROMOTIONS



ADVERTISEMENTS





LocalNewsDaily

VALLEYTIMES

ClackamasReview

EAST COUNTY NEWS

EstacadaNEWS

NEWS-TIMES

GRESHAM
OUTLOOK

Lake Oswego
Review

Lifestyles

OregonCityNews

Regal Courier

SANDY
POST

THE BEE since 1906

Sherwood
Gazette

THE SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY
CONNECTION

TheTimes
TIGARD | TUALATIN | SHERWOOD

West Linn
Tidings

effort to study and offer strategies to improve K-12 education in Oregon. More than 100 business leaders, educators and involved citizens from all parts of Oregon are participating in the project, which has compared this state's educational practices and achievement levels to other states and has identified methods for measuring progress.

The project was funded by five charitable foundations that have raised and distributed millions of dollars over the years to enhance Oregon communities, including schools, but now are focused together on greater outcomes.

The Chalkboard Project's ideas should not be dismissed by anyone as coming out of thin air. And the Chalkboard Project's leaders are not overreaching with their 2007 legislative priorities.

The main priorities include:

- Creating early learning success by reducing class sizes to 15 in kindergarten and first grade, and by providing tutors to third-graders who are not reading at grade level.
- Ensuring educator excellence by providing mentors to new teachers and administrators, and by linking staff training to student achievement.
- Saving money through better financial practices. This would include changing state school transportation funding to encourage greater school-busing efficiency and monitoring districts' financial practices.
- Providing not only better school funding, but guaranteed levels of funding per student. This final recommendation is vital because it can establish a baseline for the future, giving legislators a school-funding starting point during each budget cycle.

Tie outcomes to funding

We understand why the Chalkboard Project's initiatives may cause uneasiness among school boards, unions and administrators. Mandates from Salem do erode local control.

But the day is long gone when Oregon school districts had such control. Like it or not, that all changed with Measure 5 in 1990.

The Chalkboard Project is advocating that its legislative priorities be accomplished within Gov. Ted Kulongoski's proposed school budget of \$6.06 billion – an amount 14 percent higher than current spending.

We believe the Chalkboard priorities represent a fair deal for taxpayers. Schools will receive more, but they also will be asked to do more to improve student performance and financial accountability.

The bottom line result? Oregon's students will receive a much better education.

Veterans seeking
employment...
Business seeking
Veterans...

Call
503-655-8840



The rainy season
is upon us...
let us keep you
out of the rain with
a quality roof.

Pacific West
Roofing
503-635-8706
Providing our Community with
Quality Roofing since 1980!

Comment on this story

Comments are not edited. They are either displayed in their entirety or not displayed at all.

Comments containing profanity will be rejected automatically.

Comments judged to be inappropriate for publication due to personal

attacks or other objectionable content will be removed.

Comments containing pharmaceutical terminology will be held for review before being displayed.

Subject

Re: Chalk these up as priorities

Comment

Name

Email address

 (Not published with comment)

Submit comment

Copyright 2007 Pamplin Media Group, 6605 S.E. Lake Road, Portland, OR 97222 • 503-226-6397
Pamplin Media Group Privacy Policy

KosmosCentral **Portland Web Design, eCommerce and Marketing** providing quality web development services and custom web solutions for small businesses and large across North America and World Wide.

Looking for graphic design jobs, web design, marketing work or creative **portland jobs**? 52ltd is your source for creative resources in Portland, Oregon.

Search engine marketing, website templates, **portland web design** and website promotion by Webfu // 503.381.5553

New down and fleece north face jackets. The largest selection of **North Face Jackets** available online. Free shipping on orders over \$40.00

USOUTDOOR.com - Shop for **Backpacks** online with free shipping and no sales tax.

See the latest styles of ski jackets and backpacks from **The North Face**.