

March 22, 2014



Parkrose School Board  
10636 N.E. Prescott  
Portland, OR 97220

Dear School Board Members: Mary Lu Baetkey, James Trujillo, Dr. Thuy Tran,  
Ed Grassel, and Erick Flores,

Re: High School Graduation rate and Absenteeism

We would appreciate your addressing some concerns we have about our  
Parkrose Schools.

Recent articles in The Oregonian describe Oregon's high school graduation rate,  
after four years, to be 69%, the second worse in the nation. "Parkrose School  
District saw a slip in its overall graduation rate, which fell to 60 percent in 2013  
from 65 % in 2012." *The Oregonian, Feb. 12, 2014.*

What steps is the Parkrose School Board taking to reverse this troubling trend of  
low high school graduation?

Also, students can not learn or graduate if they don't attend classes. Another  
Oregonian series described Oregon's school absenteeism as "epidemic." *The  
Oregonian, Feb. 16, 2014.* How is Parkrose School District tracking student  
absences and keeping in touch with students and their families? Could it be  
improved?

We all want Parkrose children to learn in school and to succeed in life. Thank  
you for considering our concerns about our children.

Sincerely,

*Clare & Sharon Mershon*

Clare and Sharon Mershon  
(over 10 years being SMART readers at Shaver & Prescott Schools)  
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*cc: Dr. Karen Fischer Gray*