



SCHOOL EFFICIENCY AND  
QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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**News Release**  
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### **School Advisory Council to Hear Districts' Plans for 2004-2005 County Income Tax, Possible Repeal Impacts**

On Wednesday September 22, the School Efficiency and Quality Advisory Council will hear from each Multnomah County school district about their planned use of local tax revenues for the 2004-2005 school year. The Council will also hear what impacts a local tax repeal measure would have if it passed on November 2.

The meeting is from 3-5 p.m. in the Rose Room at Portland City Hall, 1221 SW Fourth Avenue and is open to the public.

The Council is preparing a report on how school districts expect to use the Multnomah County Income Tax during the 2004-2005 school year and how a potential repeal of the tax would affect the school districts.

The 21-member Council is charged with ensuring that revenues from the temporary three-year Multnomah County income tax benefit students in the classroom and that the tax money is well spent. In March 2004, the Council reported to all households in the County on the 2003-2004 school year. In addition, the Council monitors schools' progress in improving the educational performance of all students. The three-year County income tax and the advisory council were created by passage of Ballot Measure 26-48 last May.

The Council is co-chaired by Qwest Oregon President Judy Pepler, and Baruti Artharee, a regional director for Providence Health Systems and former chairman of the Urban League. Portland Mayor Vera Katz and Multnomah County Chair Diane Linn serve on the Council. Other members include representatives of business, education, labor, school parents and taxpayers, as well as Multnomah County's different ethnic and geographical communities.

The school advisory council will review budgets and plans submitted by County school districts to improve academic success and operational efficiency. The Council will review separate performance audits prepared by Multnomah County and City of Portland auditors and sends a report of its own findings to every household in the County. In addition, the Council will report its findings to the Portland City Council and the Board of County Commissioners.

For more information and to view the 2003-2004 report, please visit [www.seacinfo.org](http://www.seacinfo.org).

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