

# Jefferson **in** FOCUS

*"If the district can't deliver and a charter demonstrates itself to be a viable option, then yes, it's something we have to consider."*

— Lorenzo Poe,  
Portland School Board co-chair



As a former Jefferson graduate and co-chair of the Portland School Board, Lorenzo Poe has a personal interest in improving the performance of the north Portland school.

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"I don't care what you do in creating an outstanding high school program if kids entering the school are so far below benchmark that they're not academically prepared," said Poe.

He sites continuing an emphasis on education from preschool or Head Start programs to middle school and parental involvement as contributing factors to success in high school.

That's where Hopson says he can help. "We've had success with bringing people together unlike any other group out there. We do a better job of involving kids in activities than anybody else. We do a better job of getting parents involved than Jefferson ever could. If you need to get kids to participate beyond the school day or in school, we can help with that. When you want to identify

businesses and communities that can help support you with resources and opportunities, we can help with that," said Hopson, speaking for SEI.

Not to mention that SEI already has a presence at Jefferson. More than 250 SEI students attend the school.

Hopson said SEI can be a "vehicle to provide resources and support" to Jefferson High School.

"But there needs to be a full plan and we need to be given full opportunity to work with administrators and teacher to get that done," he said.

## Road Map to Educational Options

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Kersey of the school district's educational options program.

Some of the schools offer specialized programs to give struggling students more focused and directed attention. Each program has its own personalized flavor created with success of the student in mind.

Alternative schools, such as Open Meadows Middle School located in north Portland, are designed to meet academic, social and behavioral needs. Unique to Open Meadows, the goal is to attract students ages 12 to 15 that otherwise might be labeled as dropouts.

Charter schools on the other hand, like Victory Middle School and Trillium School (K through 12) in northeast Portland utilize a small student to teacher ratio with additional

before and after school help programs to attract students and ensure their success. These specialty schools must report progress and strive to meet, if not exceed standards in order to continue operation.

*"Our goal is not only to teach, but also to encourage learning."*

— Andy Kelly, Roosevelt High School Principal

For years, area high schools have struggled to meet the diverse needs of their students.

Principal Andy Kelly of Roosevelt High School believes one attributing factor of poor academic achievement among high school students is their lack of confidence in their ability to succeed.

"Here at Roosevelt, we're trying the best we can as a team to change that," says Kelly. "Our goal is not only to teach, but also to encourage learning. We stretch our students so that as a result, they'll choose to use their minds and achieve the extraordinary. This is the reality we've chosen to accept for our students."

To explore your child's choices within the Portland Public School system log on to [www.pps.k12.or.us](http://www.pps.k12.or.us) for more information. Continue supporting your child by becoming more involved in their educational journey. As the traditional African proverb proclaims, "It takes a whole village to raise a child."

## Destination Northeast Portland



Cable Food Network cooking show host and NBC Today Show weatherman Al Roker learn to cook salmon croquettes Portland-style with chef Saan Patterson at Hannah Bea's Pound Cake and More, 3969 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

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cake.

Owner Anita Smith told Roker her restaurant has grown to be an important asset to the community with its very diverse and loyal clientele.

"Hannah Bea's has grown to be so much more to me. It's about the whole area. Hannah Bea's has to survive to keep this love going for the whole community," she said.

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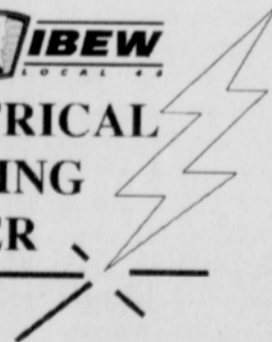
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