

# Comparison charts

The following pages contain two kinds of charts. The first set of charts (“**School comparisons**”) illustrates how each district school and charter school compares to district averages on indicators selected by A+ Schools. The second set of charts is based on the **Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS)**, which measures growth in PSSA scores.

## School comparisons

The charts on pages 14 through 18 show how each school compares to averages at the same grade or level across all schools in the report. Achievement information was compared by grade (all 3rd through 5th grades, for example), while attendance was compared by school configuration (elementary, K-8, middle, 6-12, or high). Please note that Milliones, Obama, the Science & Technology Academy, and CAPA’s 6th through 8th grades are included on the middle school chart, and CAPA’s 9th through 12th grades are included on the high school chart. Northside Urban Pathways Charter School, also a 6-12 school, is divided by grade level as well. The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park appears on the elementary chart.

Although this component of the report is based on averages, readers should not conclude that we endorse average achievement.

### **How to interpret comparisons that group students by race or family income**

PSSA test results were compared in these ways:

- All students in a school, a grade span, or a grade compared to averages for all students at that grade span or grade (for example, all third through fifth graders, or all high school seniors)
- Black students in a school, grade span, or grade compared to averages for black students at that grade span or grade
- White students in a school, grade span, or grade compared to averages for white students at that grade span or grade
- Low-income students (eligible for free/reduced-price lunch) in a school, grade span, or grade compared to averages for low-income students at that grade span, or grade

Keep in mind that these comparison groups hold even when the school’s population is all one race, or all low-income. For example, a purple arrow (indicating below average) for low-income students in a school with 100% low-income students is still a comparison of those students to averages for low-income students in the same grades, not to all students in those grades.

## PVAAS

The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) is a measure of growth in PSSA achievement, produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). PVAAS reports whether or not each grade in a school met the state’s standard for growth: at least a year’s worth of growth in scores for a year’s worth of schooling. Other measures in this report compare PSSA scores to a standard of proficiency—whether students’ scores fell into the “Advanced” or “Proficient” ranges, or whether their scores are below the standard in the “Basic” or “Below Basic” ranges. By contrast, PVAAS estimates whether or not selected grades made progress, no matter where their starting points were.

PDE calculates PVAAS information differently for high schools. That information is not included in this report.

The charts on pages 19 through 21 show an indicator for fourth through eighth grades in the district’s elementary, K-8, middle, and 6-12 schools; and in charter schools with relevant grade levels. The 6-12 schools are included on the middle school chart. Information was not available for the Environmental Charter School at Frick Park or Manchester Academic Charter School.

PDE changed its PVAAS reporting this year and our charts have changed accordingly. The indicators show whether cohorts (groups) of students exceeded the growth standard, met the growth standard, or did not meet the growth standard. *Note:* PVAAS analyzes more than one year of data. Therefore, there are no PVAAS reports for third grade, the first year students take the PSSA.

For more information about PVAAS, go to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Web site: [www.education.state.pa.us](http://www.education.state.pa.us). Under “How is my school doing?” click on School Progress.

## Additional information used for school comparisons

### Enrollment gain/loss 2008-11

**Definition:** The percentage of change in enrollment from the 2007-08 school year to the 2010-11 school year. Percentages were calculated by dividing the gain or loss in enrollment by the 2007-08 enrollment number.

**Source:** PPS.

### PVAAS

**Sources:** PDE and Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School.

# School comparisons: Elementary schools

- ▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- ▲▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- ▼ Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- ▼▼ Greater than two standard deviations below the district average
- n/a Not applicable or not available (some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported)

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

For attendance, we compared elementary schools only. Otherwise, averages include all students in grades 3 through 5, whether they attend an elementary or a K-8 school. For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 13.

	2011 PSSA scores												Enrollment gain/loss 2008-11		
	3rd through 5th grades — Subgroups of students						3rd through 5th grades — Subgroups of students								
	All students			Low-income			Black			White					
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2011 Attendance		
ALLEGHENY	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	19%
ARSENAL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▼	○	○	○	▼	○	○	-21%
BANKSVILLE	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	35%
BEECHWOOD	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-3%
CONCORD	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	0%
DILWORTH	▲	▲	○	○	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	1%
FORT PITT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▼	-54%
FULTON	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-5%
GRANDVIEW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-13%
LIBERTY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	7%
LINDEN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	6%
MILLER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-28%
MINADEO	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-12%
MORROW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-7%
PHILLIPS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10%
ROOSEVELT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	14%
SPRING HILL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	21%
WEIL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-18%
WEST LIBERTY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-3%
WHITTIER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	15%
WOOLSLAIR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	26%
FRICK ENV. CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
URBAN LEAGUE CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	17%

▲ 3 Greater than three standard deviations above the district average

CHARTER SCHOOL

# School comparisons: Middle schools/6th-8th grades

- ▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- ▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- ▼ Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- ▼ Greater than two standard deviations below the district average
- n/a Not applicable or not available (some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported)

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

For attendance, we compared middle schools and 6-12 schools separately. Otherwise, averages include all students in grades 6-8, whether they attend a middle school, a K-8, or a 6-12 school. For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 13.

		2011 PSSA scores												Enrollment gain/loss 2008-11
		6th through 8th grades All students		6th through 8th grades — Subgroups of students						2011 Attendance				
				Low-income		Black		White						
		Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math			
ALLEGHENY		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	29%
ARSENAL		▼	▼	▼	○	○	○	○	○	▼	○	○	○	-43%
CLASSICAL		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-17%
SCHILLER		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-10%
SOUTH BROOK		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	7%
SOUTH HILLS		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	3%
STERRETT		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	3%
CAPA (Gr. 6-8)		○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○	○	▲	n/a
MILLIONES (Gr. 6-8)		▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	n/a
OBAMA (Gr. 6-8)		▲	▲	○	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	n/a
SCI-TECH (Gr. 6-8)		○	▲	▲	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
URBAN PATH CHARTER (Gr. 6-8)		○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	n/a

PITTSBURGH 6-12 SCHOOL  
CHARTER SCHOOL

# School comparisons: K-8 schools (elementary grades)

- Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations below the district average
- n/a Not applicable or not available (some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported)

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

For attendance we compared K-8 schools only. Otherwise, averages include all students in grades 3 through 5, whether they attend a K-8 or elementary school. For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 13.

3 Greater than three standard deviations above the district average

3 Greater than three standard deviations below the district average

	2011 PSSA scores												Enrollment gain/loss 2008-11 (all students)	
	3rd through 5th grades All students						3rd through 5th grades - Subgroups of students							
	Low-income		Black		White		Low-income		Black		White			
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Attendance (all students)	
ARLINGTON														-9%
BROOKLINE														-5%
CARMALT														0%
COLFAX														8%
FAISON														-16%
GREENFIELD														-10%
KING														-32%
LINCOLN														-21%
MANCHESTER														-9%
MIFFLIN														1%
MONTESSORI														-9%
MURRAY														-34%
NORTHVIEW														-26%
SCHAEFFER														12%
STEVENS														15%
SUNNYSIDE														-18%
WESTWOOD														18%
MANCHESTER CHARTER														13%

CHARTER SCHOOL



# School comparisons: High schools/9th-12th grades

- ▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- ▲▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near the district average
- ▼ Greater than one standard deviation below the district average
- ▼▼ Greater than two standard deviations below the district average
- n/a Not applicable or not available (some data were unavailable because there were not enough students in a subgroup for scores to be reported)

	2011 PSSA scores												Enrollment gain/loss 2008-11
	11th grade — All students						11th grade — Subgroups of students						
	Reading		Math	Low-income		Black		White		2011 Attendance			
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2011 Attendance	Enrollment gain/loss 2008-11	
ALLDERDICE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-9%	
BRASHEAR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	10%	
CARRICK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-17%	
LANGLEY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-24%	
OLIVER	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-44%	
PERRY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-20%	
WESTINGHOUSE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-11%	
CAPA (Gr. 9-12)	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	
MILLIONES (Gr. 9-11)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	
OBAMA (Gr. 9-11)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	
CAREER CONNECTIONS CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	-6%	
CITY HIGH CHARTER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	11%	
URBAN PATH. CHARTER (Gr. 9-12)	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	

	2011 SAT		
	SAT Critical Reading	SAT Math	Percent taking test
ALLDERDICE	▲	▲	○
BRASHEAR	○	○	○
CARRICK	○	○	○
LANGLEY	○	○	○
OLIVER	○	○	○
PERRY	○	○	○
WESTINGHOUSE	○	○	○
CAPA (Gr. 9-12)	○	○	○
MILLIONES (Gr. 9-11)	○	○	○
OBAMA (Gr. 9-11)	○	○	○
CAREER CONNECTIONS CHARTER	○	○	○
CITY HIGH CHARTER	n/a	n/a	n/a
URBAN PATH. CHARTER (Gr. 9-12)	○	○	○

The "standard deviation" is a measure of how much schools vary from the district average on the indicators we selected. For the purposes of this report, we determined the number of standard deviations that each school was above or below the average. One standard deviation indicates a substantial difference from the average, and two or more standard deviations indicates an even greater difference from the average.

For attendance, we compared high schools and 6-12 schools separately. Otherwise, averages include all students in grade 11, whether they attend a high school or a 6-12 school. For more information about interpreting the chart, see page 13.

PITTSBURGH 6-12 SCHOOL  
CHARTER SCHOOL

# The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS): A growth measure

PVAAS estimates whether or not each grade level in a school met the state's standard for growth in PSSA scores: at least a year's worth of growth for a year's schooling. For more information, see page 13.

*Note:* PVAAS analyzes more than one year of PSSA data. Therefore, there are no PVAAS reports for third grade, the first year students take the PSSA.

The chart below shows an indicator for fourth and fifth grades in each district elementary school and the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School. No data were available for the Environmental Charter School at Frick Park.

	Elementary schools 2011			
	Grade 4		Grade 5	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
ALLEGHENY	▲	▲	●	▼
ARSENAL	●	▲	▲	▼
BANKSVILLE	▲	▲	▲	▲
BEECHWOOD	●	●	●	●
CONCORD	▲	▲	▼	▼
DILWORTH	▼	▲	▲	▲
FORT PITT	▲	▲	▲	▲
FULTON	▲	▲	▲	▲
GRANDVIEW	▲	●	▲	▲
LIBERTY	▲	▲	●	▲
LINDEN	▲	▲	▼	▼
MILLER	▼	▼	▲	▲
MINADEO	▼	●	●	▲
MORROW	▼	▼	●	▲
PHILLIPS	●	▲	▼	●
ROOSEVELT	▲	●	▲	▲
SPRING HILL	▼	▼	▼	▼
WEIL	▲	▲	▲	▲
WEST LIBERTY	▲	▲	●	●
WHITTIER	●	●	▲	●
WOOLSLAIR	▼	▼	▲	▲
FRICK	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
URBAN LEAGUE	●	●	▲	▲
<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE</b>	▲	▲	▲	▲

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) exceeded the state's standard: they made more than a year's worth of growth.
- Students in this cohort met the state's standard: they made a year's worth of growth.
- ▼ Students in this cohort did not meet the state's standard: they made less than a year's worth of growth.

CHARTER SCHOOL

# The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS):

## A growth measure

PVAAS estimates whether or not each grade level in a school met the state's standard for growth in PSSA scores: at least a year's worth of growth for a year's schooling. For more information, see page 13.

Note: PVAAS analyzes more than one year of PSSA data. Therefore, there are no PVAAS reports for third grade, the first year students take the PSSA.

The chart below shows an indicator for fourth through eighth grades in each district K-8 school. No data were available for Manchester Academic Charter School.

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) exceeded the state's standard: they made more than a year's worth of growth.
- Students in this cohort met the state's standard: they made a year's worth of growth.
- ▼ Students in this cohort did not meet the state's standard: they made less than a year's worth of growth.

K-8 schools 2011										
	Grade 4		Grade 5		Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
ARLINGTON	▼	▼	▼	●	▼	●	●	●	▲	▼
BROOKLINE	▲	▲	▲	▲	●	●	▲	▲	▼	▲
CARMALT	▲	●	●	▼	●	●	▲	●	▼	●
COLFAX	▲	▼	▼	▼	●	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲
FAISON	▼	●	●	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	●	▲
GREENFIELD	▼	▼	▼	▼	●	▲	●	▼	▲	▲
KING	▲	▼	●	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▼	▲
LINCOLN	▲	▲	▲	●	▼	▼	▼	●	▼	▼
MANCHESTER	●	●	●	▲	▼	●	▲	▲	▲	▼
MIFFLIN	▲	▼	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	●	▲	▲
MONTESSORI	▲	●	▲	▲	●	●	▲	▲	▲	●
MURRAY	▲	▲	●	●	●	●	▲	▲	▲	●
NORTHVIEW	▲	●	●	●	▲	▲	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SCHAEFFER	●	▼	●	▼	▲	●	▼	▲	▲	▲
STEVENS	▲	▼	▲	▼	▼	●	●	▼	▲	▲
SUNNYSIDE	▲	▲	▼	●	●	●	▲	▲	▲	▲
WESTWOOD	▼	▼	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲
MANCHESTER CHARTER	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE</b>	▲	▲	▲	▲	●	▲	▲	▲	▲	●

CHARTER SCHOOL

# The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS): A growth measure

PVAAS estimates whether or not each grade level in a school met the state's standard for growth in PSSA scores: at least a year's worth of growth for a year's schooling. For more information, see page 13.

The chart below shows an indicator for sixth through eighth grades in each district school and Northside Urban Pathways Charter School.

- ▲ Students in this cohort (group) exceeded the state's standard: they made more than a year's worth of growth.
- Students in this cohort met the state's standard: they made a year's worth of growth.
- ▼ Students in this cohort did not meet the state's standard: they made less than a year's worth of growth.

Middle schools/6th-8th grades 2011						
	Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
ALLEGHENY	▲	●	▼	●	▼	▼
ARSENAL	▼	▼	▲	▲	▲	●
CLASSICAL	▼	●	▲	●	●	▲
SCHILLER	●	●	▲	●	▲	▲
SOUTH BROOK	▼	▼	▲	▼	▲	▲
SOUTH HILLS	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
STERRETT	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲
CAPA (Gr. 6-8)	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲
MILLIONES (Gr. 6-8)	●	▼	▲	▲	▼	●
OBAMA (Gr. 6-8)	●	▼	●	▼	▼	●
SCI-TECH (Gr. 6-8)	▲	●	▲	●	▼	●
URBAN PATH. CHARTER (Gr. 6-8)	●	●	●	●	▲	▼
<b>DISTRICT AVERAGE</b>	●	▲	▲	▲	▲	●

PITTSBURGH 6-12 SCHOOL
CHARTER SCHOOL