

District schools’ “strengths” and “challenges”

The following pages contain charts that illustrate the strengths and challenges identified for each district school by A+ Schools.

How were each school’s strengths and challenges determined?

We compared each school to district averages at the same grade or level. For elementary schools, there were 14 points of comparison; for K-8s, 19; for middle schools, 12; and for high schools, 22.

A school’s performance statistically above* the district average in one category was labeled a strength, while its performance statistically below** the district average in another category was labeled a challenge. In a school where performance was above the district average for nearly all categories, performance only at the average in a single category was considered a challenge. Likewise, average performance by a school that was *below* average in most categories was considered a strength. Not every strength or every challenge was included on the school pages—see the charts for complete information.

Strengths/challenges statements are intended to be interpreted within the context of each school. The same statement may be listed as a strength for one school and a challenge for another. Although this component of the report is based on district averages, readers should not conclude that we are endorsing 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, or a grade within a school, compared to district averages for all students at that grade (all eighth graders, or all high school seniors...)
- Black students in a school or grade compared to district averages for black students at that grade
- White students in a school or grade compared to district averages for white students at that grade
- Low-income students (eligible for free/reduced price lunch) in a school or grade compared to district averages for low-income students at that grade

* At least one standard deviation above the district average

** At least one standard deviation below the district average

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 statement such as “High PSSA 5th grade reading scores for low-income students” in a school with 100% low-income students is still a comparison of those students to district averages for low-income fifth graders, not to all fifth graders.

Additional information used for strengths/challenges

Change in SAT scores

Definition: Increase or decrease in SAT scores, 2003-07.

Source: PDE.

College-bound seniors

Definition: Percentage of graduates in 2006 who reported that they were planning to attend a two- or four-year college/university or an institution granting a specialized associates’ degree.

Source: PDE.

Student race/ethnicity, family income status

Definition: Race/ethnicity reflects PPS definitions (see “Student race/ethnicity” on page 73). Test information for students in the “other” category was not reported by PDE for most Pittsburgh schools due to their small numbers, and so was not used for comparisons in this report. “Low-income students” refers to students eligible for free or reduced price lunch.

Source: PDE.

See pages 73 and 74 for other definitions and sources.

Strengths and challenges charts

Elementary schools	76
Middle schools	77
K-8 schools	78-79
High schools	80

Elementary schools: Strengths and challenges

- ▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- ▲▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near 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). New schools do not have "change" data.

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.

Averages include all students at that grade level, whether they attend an elementary or a K-8 school. For more information about interpreting a school's strengths/challenges, see page 75.

		2007 PSSA scores												Attendance		
		3rd grade All students			5th grade All students			5th grade – Subgroups of students			White			2007 Attendance	04–07 Change	
		Reading	Math	04–07 Change	Reading	Math	04–07 Change	Low-income		Black		White				
							Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math				
ALLEGHENY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
ARSENAL	○	▼	n/a	○	▼	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	○	○	n/a
BANKSVILLE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▼
BEECHWOOD	○	▲	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CONCORD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	▲
DILLWORTH	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FORT PITT	○	○	n/a	○	○	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FULTON	○	○	▲▲	○	○	▲▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
GRANDVIEW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LIBERTY	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LINDEN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MINADEO	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MORROW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
NORTHVIEW	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
PHILLIPS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
ROOSEVELT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SPRING HILL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WEST LIBERTY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WHITTIER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WOOLSLAIR	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○

▲ Greater than three standard deviations above the district average

Middle schools: Strengths and challenges

- Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near 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].
- New schools do not have “change” data.

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.

Averages include all students at that grade level, whether they attend a middle or a K-8 school.

For more information about interpreting a school’s strengths/challenges, see page 75.

	2007 PSSA scores															
	All students [8th grade]				Subgroups of students [8th grade]								Attendance			
	04-07 Change		Math		04-07 Change		Math		Low-income		Black		White		2007 Attendance	04-07 Change
ALLEGHENY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
ARSENAL	○	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
CLASSICAL	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FRICK	○		○	○			○	○	○	○	○		○	○	○	○
ROGERS		○					○									
ROONEY		n/a														n/a
SCHILLER	○		○	○			○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
SOUTH BROOK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	
SOUTH HILLS	○	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
STERRETT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	

3 Greater than three standard deviations below the district average

K-8 schools: Strengths and challenges

- Greater than one standard deviation above the district average
- Greater than two standard deviations above the district average
- Near 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]. New schools do not have "change" data.

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.

Averages include all students at that grade level, whether they attend a K-8, an elementary, or a middle school.

For more information about interpreting a school's strengths/challenges, see page 75.

	2007 PSSA scores												Attendance (All grades)	
	8th grade All students		8th grade – Subgroups of students						2007 Attendance					
			Low-income		Black		White							
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	Reading	Math	2007 Attendance	
ARLINGTON	○	○	○	▲	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▶
BROOKLINE	○	▲	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CARMALT	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
COLFAX	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
FAISON	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶
GREENFIELD	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
KING	○	▶	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▶
LINCOLN	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MANCHESTER	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶
MIFFLIN	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	○
MILLER	▶	▶	▶	▶	○	▶	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
MONTESSORI	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
MURRAY	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶
SCHAEFFER	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
STEVENS	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▶▶
SUNNYSIDE	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
VANN	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	○
WEIL	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶	▶
WESTWOOD	▲	○	▲	○	▲	○	▲	○	▲	○	▲	○	▲	○

High schools: Strengths and challenges

- ▲ Greater than one standard deviation above the district average for high schools
- ▲▲ Greater than two standard deviations above the district average for high schools
- Near district average for high schools
- ▼ Greater than one standard deviation below the district average for high schools
- ▼▼ Greater than two standard deviations below the district average for high schools
- 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 more information about interpreting a school’s strengths/challenges, see page 75.

	2007 PSSA scores										Attendance		
	All students (11th grade)					Subgroups of students (11th grade)					2007 Attendance	04–07 Change	
	Reading	04–07 Change	Math	04–07 Change	Reading	Low-income	Black	White	Math				
ALLDERDICE	○	▼	▲	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
BRASHEAR	○	○	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
CAPA	▲	○	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲
CARRICK	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
LANGLEY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
OLIVER	▼	○	▼	○	○	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▼	▲
PEABODY	▼	○	▼	○	○	▼	▼	▼	▼	n/a	▼	▼	○
PERRY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
SCHENLEY	○	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
WESTINGHOUSE	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	○	○	▲

	2007 SAT					2006 College-bound seniors				
	SAT Critical Reading	03–07 Change	SAT Math	03–07 Change	Percent taking test	Overall	Black male	Black female	White male	White female
	ALLDERDICE	▲	○	▲	○	▲	○	○	○	○
BRASHEAR	○	○	○	▲	○	○	○	○	○	○
CAPA	▲	▲	○	○	▲	▲	▲	○	○	▼
CARRICK	○	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○
LANGLEY	▼	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	▼	○	○
OLIVER	▼	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a
PEABODY	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a
PERRY*	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
SCHENLEY	○	▼	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	▲
WESTINGHOUSE	▼	▲	▼	○	○	○	○	○	n/a	n/a

▲ 3 Greater than three standard deviations above the district average

*No college-bound senior data were available.