

A+ Schools programs and opportunities

A+ Schools has a range of volunteer opportunities for parents, students, and community members who care about our schools and want to help improve them. Whether you want to share your views on timely issues, help us gather new information, or just learn more about an issue, we have an opportunity for you.

School Works

Our School Works program sends trained volunteers into schools to conduct confidential interviews with school staff, including guidance counselors, teachers, and principals. Interviewers ask for information about staffing, training, coursework, support services, resources, and students' learning opportunities.

A+ Schools analyzes the compiled information; community members review the issues and establish priorities. A+ Schools shares the findings with school staff and the community and uses them to develop community priorities for our schools. (The full reports can be found at www.aplusschools.org.)

Board Watch

A+ Schools advocates for an open, transparent, accountable, and effective school board. Through Board Watch, trained volunteers observe Pittsburgh Board of Education meetings and rate the board on five indicators of good governance. A+ Schools translates these reports into quarterly grades for the school board on each indicator and provides recommendations to improve board processes.

TeenBloc

We believe students should be involved in shaping the agenda for our city's public schools. Anyone can nominate a student who attends a Pittsburgh public or charter high school for this leadership group. Participants learn how to define their ideas for change, work with a team, establish strategic relationships, and put their ideas into action.

Community conversations

A+ Schools holds community conversations on important issues such as the school district's budget, choosing a superintendent, and the reconfiguration of schools. We also hold public meetings to discuss the results of initiatives such as School Works and to help define priorities.

Parent Nation

A+ Schools also mobilizes parents and families. Through Parent Nation, we support the work of parents as advocates and partners in school improvement at a growing number of schools.

Voter Education

Every other year, A+ Schools engages the community to raise awareness about school board elections. Volunteers help canvass neighborhoods to talk about key issues and to encourage people to vote in elections. A+ Schools works with community organizations to host a variety of candidate forums and sends out voter guides to help educate the community about where candidates stand on the issues.

Visit our Web site at www.aplusschools.org or call us at 412-697-1298 to:

- Volunteer for School Works.
- Volunteer for Board Watch.
- Nominate a student for TeenBloc.
- **Join a Parent Nation team for campaigns and organizing.**
- Volunteer to canvass as part of our voter education efforts.
- Volunteer to facilitate a small group during a community meeting.
- Sign up for our mailing and/or email lists.
- Find more information about any of our programs.