

Definitions and sources of information

All information is from the 2013-14 school year unless noted.

Abbreviations:

PPS: Pittsburgh Public Schools (www.pps.k12.pa.us)

PDE: Pennsylvania Department of Education (www.education.state.pa.us)

Top of page information:

School name, address, neighborhood, phone number, principal/administrator

Definition: The current school name and principal, acting principal, or administrator as of 9/14 are listed. "PreK" in a school name means the school serves children from ages three to five in an early childhood program.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

School description

Definition: "Magnet school" refers to a whole-school magnet (all students must apply to attend). "School with a magnet program" refers to a school with both magnet and neighborhood (feeder pattern) components. "CTE program" refers to Career and Technical Education. Information about "English as a Second Language" programs can be found on the PPS Web site. Click on "Departments" and use the alphabetical directory.

Sources: PPS Web site, PPS "Options and Offerings Guide."

Building accessibility

Definition: Whether or not a school is "accessible" (school entrance and all floors and classrooms are accessible to individuals who use wheelchairs); has an accessible entrance but no elevator; or is "accessible, with exceptions" (has an accessible entrance and most, but not all, floors and classrooms are accessible).

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Teachers at "Proficient" and "Distinguished" performance levels

Definition: The percentages of teachers who performed at "Proficient" and "Distinguished" performance levels, according to the district's measures of teacher effectiveness. The other possible performance levels are "Needs Improvement" and "Failing." These performance levels are defined by the state per Act 82 of 2012. For most teachers, levels are determined by classroom observations, and student outcomes information, including growth and student survey responses.

Source: PPS.

Per pupil spending

Definition: The average cost per student from the school's 2013-14 site-based budget, with the addition of its Title I allocation. The site-based budget includes average regular teacher salaries, principal salaries, supplies, and other costs. It doesn't include special and "gifted" education, English as a Second Language education, maintenance, security, utilities, or transportation.

Source: PPS.

Student survey responses

Definition: From the Tripod Student Survey, the percentages of students who agreed with statements about the extent to which teachers care for them and view their success as important (such as "My teacher really tries to understand how students feel about things"), and who agreed with statements about being challenged (such as "My teacher wants us to use our thinking skills, not just memorize things"). The survey is administered to students twice a year.

Source: PPS.

Number of teachers

Definition: Total number of classroom teachers in the school as of October 1, 2013.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Teacher survey responses

Definition: On the district's Teaching and Learning Conditions Survey, the percentage of teachers at the school who agreed with the statement, "Overall, my school is a good place to work and learn." Teachers are asked to complete the survey each year.

Source: PPS.

Teachers new to the school

Definition: The percentage of teachers new to the school includes transfers, new teacher hires, and teachers who filled new positions through October 1, 2013.

Source: PPS.

Principal/administrator stability

Definition: Number of different principals/administrators in a school from the 2010-11 school year to the 2013-14 school year. For district schools, mid-year changes (including leaves of absence) were tabulated beginning with the 2011-12 school year. Schools with "n/a" opened within the last four years or were declared "new" by PDE.

Sources: PPS' "Public School Choices," "Magnet Program Registration Guide," staff lists, and Web site; charter schools.

Parent survey responses

Definition: On the Pittsburgh Public Schools Parent Survey, the percentage of parents who agreed with the statement "You would recommend this school to another family." The survey is mailed to parents and available online. Response rates under ten percent were reported as "n/a."

Source: PPS.

Student stability rate

Definition: A measure of student stability during one school year. A high number indicates a stable student population. For district schools, the student stability rate represents the total number of students who didn't transfer during the entire year divided by the official enrollment for that year, which is calculated in October. Charter schools provided similar information.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Students absent 18+ days

Definition: The percentage of students who were absent more than 18 days, which represents more than 10% of the entire school year.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Students suspended at least once

Definition: The percentage of students who were suspended (out of school suspensions only) at least once during the 2012-13 school year, the most recent year available.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Percentage of students attending college/trade school

Definition: Percentage of 2013 graduates who enrolled in four-year or two-year colleges/universities or trade schools in 2013 (seamless enrollment).

Sources: PPS (National Student Clearinghouse report), Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School, City Charter High School.

Special accomplishments

Definition: Awards, honors, and other kinds of local and national recognition for individual students, school teams, and schools; student participation in national and local community service and celebratory events; and noteworthy creative works produced by students.

Sources: Selected by A+ Schools from information provided by district and charter school principals/administrators and other school staff, PPS Web site, and other sources.

Graduation rate

Definition: PDE determined the graduation rate by tracking the number of individual ninth graders in 2009 who graduated in 2013 or earlier (the “cohort” rate). For more information about how the rate was determined, go to www.education.state.pa.us and click on “Graduation Rates.” Information is for 2013, the most recent year available. See the Web version of this report for subgroup* information: apluschools.org/2014-report.

Source: PDE.

Percentage of seniors eligible for Pittsburgh Promise scholarship

Definition: Percentage of 2013 12th grade cohort (as of August 31, 2013), by race and family income status, who met or exceeded the Class of 2013 Pittsburgh Promise grade point average (GPA) criteria of 2.5. This is one of several criteria for eligibility to receive scholarship funds from the Pittsburgh Promise (see PPS Web site for more information). Ten or fewer students in a subgroup were reported as “n/a.” Information for racial/ethnic groups other than black and white was not reported due to their small numbers. The Pittsburgh Promise scholarship eligibility indicator for charter schools represents only those students who were city residents.

Sources: PPS, Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School, City Charter High School.

Key outcomes:

8th grade algebra

Definition: The number of students who took algebra in 8th grade, out of the total number of 8th graders in the school.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

PSSA tests and Keystone exams

Definition: Percentages of students, by subgroup, at each achievement level on 2014 PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) 3rd grade Reading tests. Percentages of students, by subgroup, at each achievement level on the Algebra 1 Keystone Exam in 8th grade, and Literature and Algebra 1 Keystone exams by the end of 11th grade, 2014. Keystone results “by the end of 11th grade” capture scores for students who took the exams in earlier grades. Students may take the Keystone exams more than once. Reported information reflects students’ highest scores. (For Biology Keystone achievement information, see apluschools.org/2014-report.) Achievement levels (score ranges) include “Advanced,” “Proficient,” “Basic,” and “Below Basic.” Subgroups include student race/ethnicity, family income status (“Low-income”), and IEP status.

- Subgroup scores are reported as “n/a” when that subgroup had 0-10 students (test scores for 10 or fewer students in a group or subgroup are not reported by PDE). For K-8 schools, subgroup percentages were calculated separately for each grade span (3-5 and 6-8), rather than by building total.
- Race/ethnicity for district schools reflects PPS definitions. Charter schools provided similar information. We report subgroup information when more than 10 students in the subgroup took a particular test. In some cases, a subgroup met the reporting threshold for one subject area only (Reading or Math, for example).
- “Low-income” refers to students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. (PSSA scores were not available by subgroup for students who are not low-income.)
- “IEP” refers to students with an Individual Education Plan for special education, excluding students identified as “gifted.”
- If a section of a circular chart doesn’t include every score range (for example, it appears that no students were “Below Basic”), no students scored in that range.
- Percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding.

Source: PDE.

Gap in percentage of students at Proficient/Advanced levels on PSSA tests

Definition: The achievement gap over four years (2011 to 2014), defined as the difference between black achievement at the school and white achievement at the district level, for Reading and Math PSSA scores. In some cases, no gap could be calculated for a particular year because too few black students were tested. If no line is shown for “school white” or “school black,” the number of students didn’t meet the reporting threshold. A negative “GAP” number indicates that black students in the school performed above the level of white students in the district.

Sources: 2011 and 2012 data, PDE; 2013 and 2014 data, PPS; and charter schools.

College/trade school readiness:

Percentage of students taking AP courses

Definition: Number of students, by race and family income status, who took at least one Advanced Placement course divided by total 11th and 12th grade student enrollment. Ten or fewer students in a subgroup was reported as “n/a.” Information for racial/ethnic groups other than black and white was not reported due to their small numbers.

Sources: PPS, Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School, City Charter High School.

Percentage of students taking CAS courses

Definition: Number of students, by race and family income status, who took at least one Center for Advanced Studies (CAS) course divided by total student enrollment or by grades 9-12 for 6-12 schools. Ten or fewer students in a subgroup was reported as “n/a.” Information for racial/ethnic groups other than black and white was not reported due to their small numbers.

Source: PPS.

Enrollment:

Enrollment

Definition: Total number of students enrolled in the school as of January 2014.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Student race/ethnicity

Definition: PPS defines a student’s race as black, white, multi-ethnic, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, or other, based on parents’ identification. Charter schools provided similar information. We reported percentages of students in each ethnic subgroup separately when there were more than 10 students in the group. Percentages may not add to 100 because of rounding.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Family income status, “low income”

Definition: Students eligible for free or reduced price lunch (a measure of family poverty).

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Information by level:

Capture rate

Definition: The percentage of students assigned to the school (living in the school’s feeder pattern or catchment area) who were enrolled in the school in 2013-14. The denominator includes students who attend private, parochial, and charter schools, as well as students who attend other district schools.

Source: PPS.

PSSA tests

Definition: See “PSSA tests and Keystone exams” at left.

Source: State information, PDE.

* “Subgroup” means a group within a larger group. For example, “white fifth-graders” is a subgroup of all fifth-graders.

Schools by region

East:

- 1 Allderdice 9-12
- 2 Arsenal PreK-5
- 3 Arsenal 6-8
- 4 Colfax K-8
- 5 Dilworth PreK-5
- 6 Environmental Charter School at Frick Park K-3
- 7 Environmental Charter School at Frick Park 4-8
- 8 Faison K-5
- 9 Fulton PreK-5
- 10 Greenfield PreK-8
- 11 Liberty K-5
- 12 Lincoln PreK-5
- 13 Linden K-5
- 14 Mifflin PreK-8
- 15 Minadeo PreK-5
- 16 Montessori PreK-5
- 17 Obama 6-12
- 18 Sterrett 6-8

- 19 Sunnyside PreK-8
- 20 Science and Technology 6-12
- 21 Westinghouse 6-12
- 22 Woolslair PreK-5
- 23 Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (K-5)

South:

- 24 Arlington PreK-2
- 25 Arlington 3-8
- 26 Banksville K-5
- 27 Beechwood PreK-5
- 28 Brashear 9-12
- 29 Brookline K-8
- 30 Carmalt PreK-8
- 31 Carrick 9-12
- 32 Concord PreK-5
- 33 Grandview K-5

- 34 Phillips K-5
- 35 Roosevelt PreK-1
- 36 Roosevelt 2-5
- 37 South Brook 6-8
- 38 South Hills 6-8
- 39 West Liberty K-5
- 40 Whittier K-5

North:

- 41 Allegheny PreK-5
- 42 Allegheny 6-8
- 43 King PreK-8
- 44 Manchester Academic Charter School (K-8)
- 45 Manchester PreK-8
- 46 Morrow PreK-4
- 47 Morrow 5-8
- 48 Perry 9-12
- 49 Propel Northside Charter School (K-7 in 2014-15)

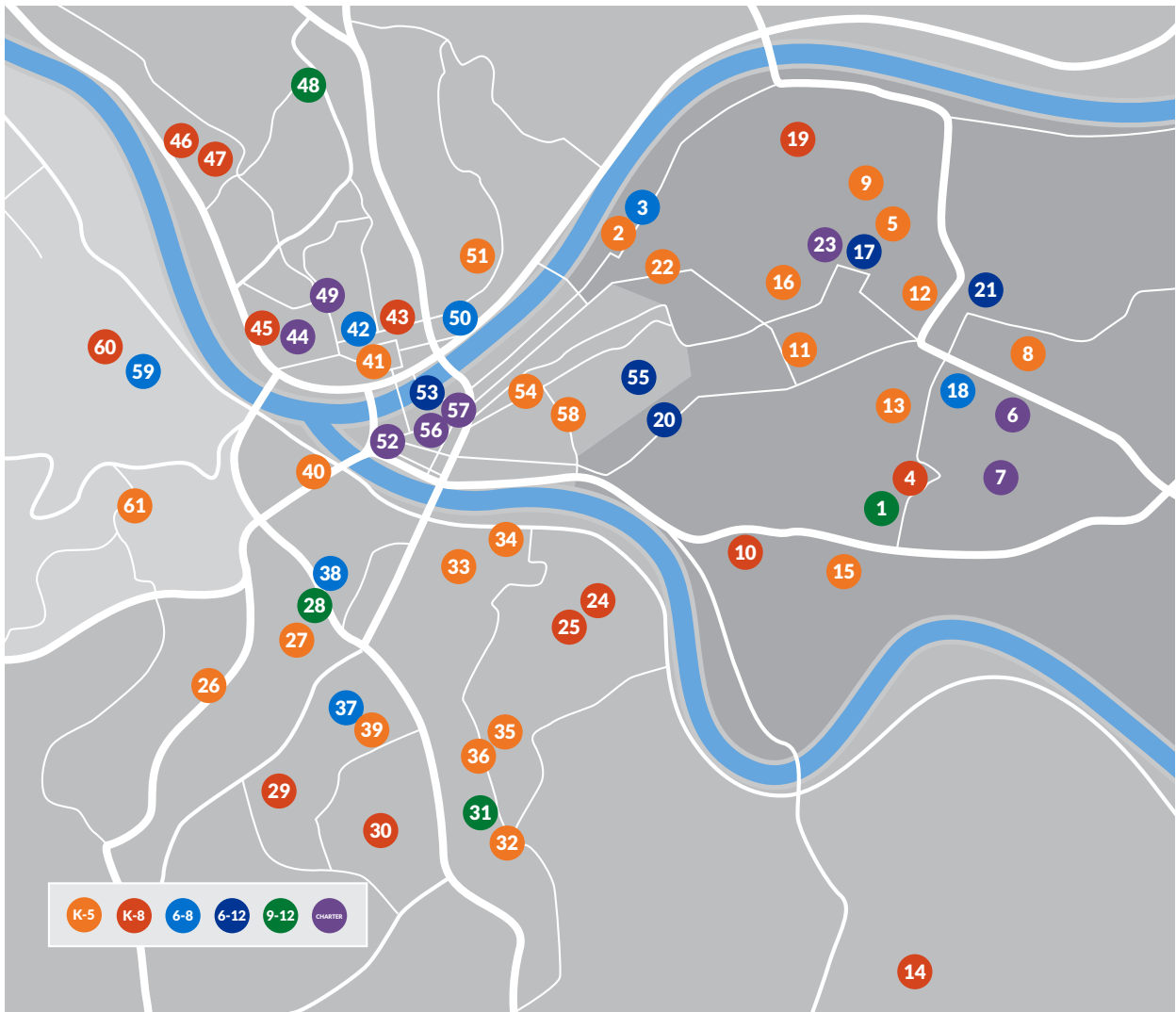
- 50 Schiller 6-8
- 51 Spring Hill K-5

Central:

- 52 City Charter High School (9-12)
- 53 CAPA 6-12
- 54 Miller PreK-5
- 55 Milliones 6-12
- 56 Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School
- 57 Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School
- 58 Weil PreK-5

West:

- 59 Classical 6-8
- 60 Langley K-8
- 61 Westwood PreK-5



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For more information

A+ Schools: www.aplusschools.org

Pittsburgh Public Schools: www.pps.k12.pa.us
www.discoverpps.org

City Charter High School: www.cityhigh.org

The Environmental Charter School at Frick Park:
www.environmentalcharterschool.org

Manchester Academic Charter School: www.macsk8.org

Propel Charter School Northside:
www.propelschools.org/school_northside.php

Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School: <http://ulgpscs.org>

Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School: www.upcs.net

Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter School: www.upcs.net

Pittsburgh Promise: www.pittsburghpromise.org

PA Department of Education: www.education.state.pa.us
<http://paschoolperformance.org>