

# A+ Schools year in review

Here's what our parent- and student-led movement for equitable and excellent public schools for Pittsburgh's children accomplished over the past year:

**More than 2,930 people** attended A+ Schools' neighborhood, community, and school events last year.

## PARENT NATION

- Parent Nation's 22 parent leaders organized 56 of their peers to speak out at School Board meetings and in the community. They advocated for implementation of restorative disciplinary practices in schools, changes to the PPS Gifted and Talented Education program, and allocating resources based on student needs.
- 300 individuals participated in 20 Parent Nation workshops and trainings across the city.

**Support Parent Nation with a donation:** \$10 to get a *Report to the Community* in a family's hands, \$37.50 for one childcare worker for a workshop.

## TEENBLOC

- With 143 student members citywide, TeenBloc students developed a "Teach-In" for pre-service teachers about the importance of building strong relationships with students. They created an app to help students stay connected, recorded four podcasts, and were twice featured on PCTV21, Pittsburgh's public access station.
- 66 students from 12 schools participated in our Summer Youth Organizing Academy and/or our inaugural MLK Dreaming Radically Youth Conference.

**Support youth voice:** \$200 to record one podcast, \$2,000 to help underwrite our annual Youth Conference.

## BOARD WATCH ACADEMY

- A first cohort of 13 people completed the six-month Board Watch Academy program. The second cohort is now underway, with 15 regular volunteers and a revised rubric to provide better feedback to the School Board.
- Participants have spent 75+ hours observing and evaluating School Board meetings, and over 12 hours in monthly workshops on topics related to quality board governance.

**Support our Board Watch and Voter Education programs:** \$15 to send one School Board voter guide to a resident, \$1,800 to help us livestream and broadcast our bi-annual School Board candidate forum.

## MOBILIZING TO CREATE CHANGE

- **Parents and educators focused on school discipline:** 34 parents, students, school staff, after-school providers, and community volunteers met monthly with A+ Schools staff to monitor school data related to restorative disciplinary practices and to pursue an action plan focused on advocacy for implementation. 133 participants attended 12 **Restorative Parenting** information sessions across the city.
- **New "gifted" screening pilot in six schools:** In September, the School Board approved a pilot to screen all second graders at six schools, responding to Parent Nation members' concerns about inequities in gifted programming.
- **Inspiring the community with a message of hope:** A+ Schools hosted Education Trust's Karin Chenoweth to discuss her latest book, *Schools That Succeed: How Educators Marshal the Power of Systems for Improvement*. Her talk showed that equitable schools are possible, and that the work can be done by those already in our systems.

**Help us advocate for change:** \$25 for one person to attend an event with a national speaker, \$150 to provide school board public hearing testimony training for up to 15 parents.

**Get involved!** ▶

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