

Definitions and sources of information

All information is from the 2015-16 school year unless noted.

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 9/16 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. More information about "English as a Second Language" programs can be found on the PPS Web site.

Sources: PPS Web site, PPS "Offerings and Options 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" levels, according to the district's measures of teacher effectiveness. The other possible performance levels are "Needs Improvement" and "Failing." 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. Instructors at Pittsburgh Online Academy 4-12 are not considered classroom teachers for purposes of evaluation under Act 82. Some charter schools provided equivalent information. For more information about City Charter High School's teacher performance levels system, visit http://cityhigh.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/CH_CBSaffPromotionDL.pdf.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

PVAAS

Definition: The Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System (PVAAS) is a measure of growth in PSSA and Keystone achievement. The state's standard is at least a year's worth of growth in scores for a year's worth of schooling. PVAAS reports whether or not each grade in a school met, exceeded, or did not meet the standard. Respectively, these indicators are shown on the page with a blue triangle, two dark blue triangles, and a red and white circle. Because PVAAS analyzes more than one year of data, there are no PVAAS reports for 3rd grade, the first year students take the PSSA.

Source: PDE.

Students chronically absent

Definition: The percentage of students who were absent 10% or more of the days they were enrolled at the school.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Number of teachers

Definition: Total number of classroom teachers in the school as of fall 2015. Instructors at Pittsburgh Online Academy 4-12 aren't considered classroom teachers, and so aren't included.

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. Some charter schools provided equivalent information.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

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 fall 2015.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Long-term substitutes

Definition: Number of substitute teachers who completed 40 or more consecutive days in place of the same teacher.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Teachers absent 18+ days

Definition: Percentage of teachers who were absent 10% or more of the days students attended school.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Principal/administrator stability

Definition: Number of different principals/administrators in a school from the 2012-13 school year to the 2015-16 school year, including mid-year changes for PPS schools. Schools with "n/a" opened within the last four years.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Parents recommend school

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 10 percent were reported as "n/a." Some charter schools provided equivalent responses.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Student stability rate

Definition: 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. (A high number indicates a stable student population.)

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 school year, by race, income, and IEP status. King, Miller, and Weil suspension rates were based on data derived from student attendance records.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

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.

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

Graduation rate

Definition: PDE determined the graduation rate by tracking the number of individual 9th graders in 2011 who graduated in 2015 or earlier (the "cohort" rate). A similar calculation was used for "graduation rates over time." The graduation rate we report is based on regular education schools only. The rate factors in students who met course requirements but did not receive a diploma for other reasons, such as international exchange students, and students attending regional special education classrooms, who may graduate on a different timeline. It doesn't include students who earned a GED or a special program certificate. For more information about how the cohort rate is determined, go to www.education.state.pa.us and find "Cohort Graduation Rate" in "Data & Statistics." Information is for 2015, the most recent year available.

Source: PDE.

Percentage of students attending college/trade school

Definition: Percentage of 2015 graduates who enrolled in four-year or two-year colleges/universities or trade schools in 2015 (seamless enrollment). For more information, visit www.studentclearinghouse.org.

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

Percentage of seniors eligible for Pittsburgh Promise scholarship

Definition: Percentage of 2015-16 seniors (as of May 2016) by race, economic disadvantage, and IEP status who met or exceeded the Class of 2016 Pittsburgh Promise grade point average (GPA) criterion of 2.5. This is one of several criteria for eligibility to receive scholarship funds from the Pittsburgh Promise (see PPS Web site or www.pittsburghpromise.org for more information). Ten or fewer students in a subgroup* is reported as "n/a." Information for charter schools represents only 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 by the end of 8th grade, out of the total number of 8th graders in the school. Numbers include students who took algebra in 6th, 7th, or 8th grades.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

PSSA tests and Keystone exams

Definition: Percentages of students, by subgroup, at each achievement level on 2016 PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) **3rd grade English Language Arts (reading and writing)** 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**, 2016. Keystone results "by the end of 11th grade" include 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. Achievement levels (score ranges) include "Advanced," "Proficient," "Basic," and "Below Basic." Subgroups include student race/ethnicity, economic disadvantage ("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).
- 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 (ELA or Math, for example).
- "Low-income" refers to students who are identified as economically disadvantaged.
- "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.

Sources: PPS, PDE, and charter schools.

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

Definition: The achievement gap over the years 2013 and 2014, and the years 2015 and 2016, defined as the difference between black achievement at the school and white achievement at the district level, for English Language Arts and Math PSSA scores. Please note that the content of the tests changed in 2015. For K-8 schools, subgroup percentages were calculated separately for each grade span (3-5 and 6-8), rather than by building total. In some cases, no gap could be calculated for a particular year because too few black students were tested. If no indicator 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: PDE, PPS, and charter schools.

College/trade school readiness:

Percentage of students taking AP courses

Definition: Number of students by race, economic disadvantage, and IEP status who took at least one Advanced Placement course, divided by total 9-12 student enrollment. Subgroups with 10 or fewer students were 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, economic disadvantage, and IEP status who took at least one Centers for Advanced Study (CAS) course divided by total student enrollment in high schools 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 October 2015.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Capture rate

Definition: The percentage of students living in the school's feeder pattern or catchment area who were enrolled in the school in 2015-16. The denominator includes students who attend private, parochial, and charter schools, as well as students who attend other district schools.

Source: PPS.

Student race/ethnicity

Definition: PPS defines a student's race as Black, White, Multi-ethnic, Asian, Hispanic, American Indian or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, based on parents' identification. Charter schools provided similar information. We report 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.

Economically disadvantaged, "low income"

Definition: Students are identified as economically disadvantaged based on the state's Direct Certification process, which can include poverty data sources such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Transitional Assistance for Families with Dependent Children, or Medicaid eligibility; and children living in foster care.

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

IEP

Definition: Students with an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for special education, excluding students identified as "gifted."

Sources: PPS and charter schools.

Information by level:

PSSA tests and Keystone exams

Definition: See left column.

Source: State information, PDE.

* "Subgroup" means a group within a larger group. For example, "white 5th graders" is a subgroup of all 5th graders. For subgroups, percentages are based on the subgroup rather than total school enrollment (for example, the percentage of black students taking CAS courses, rather than the percentage of all students taking CAS courses who are black).

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 Propel Charter School Hazelwood (K-6 in 16-17)

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

South:

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

- 34 Online Academy 4-12 (office and drop-in center)
- 35 Phillips K-5
- 36 Roosevelt PreK-1
- 37 Roosevelt 2-5
- 38 South Brook 6-8
- 39 South Hills 6-8
- 40 West Liberty PreK-5
- 41 Whittier K-5

North:

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

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

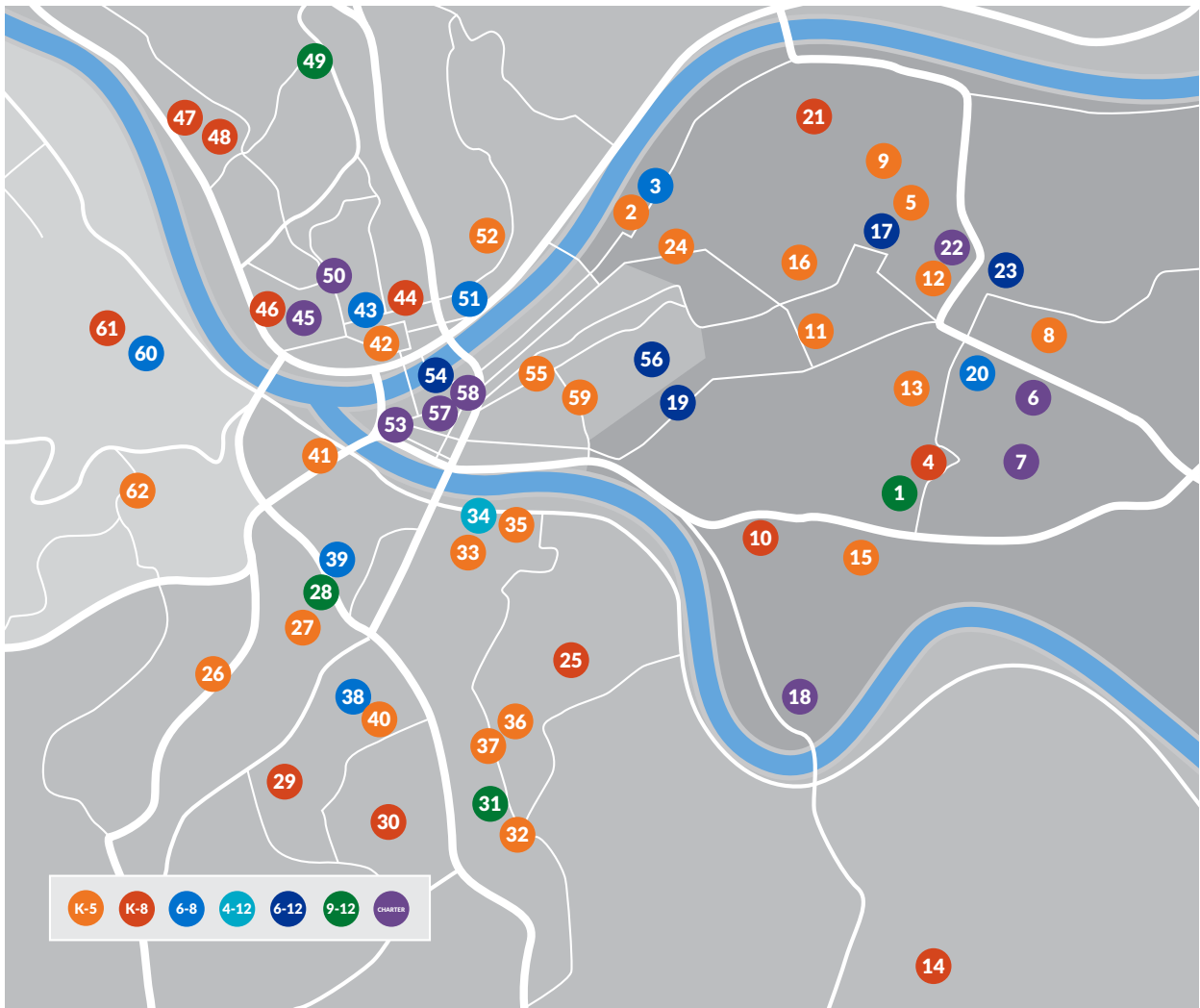
Central:

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

West:

- 60 Classical 6-8
- 61 Langley K-8
- 62 Westwood K-5

See page 88 for locations of special schools and centers.



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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:
<http://ecspgh.org>

Manchester Academic Charter School: www.macsk8.org

Propel Charter School Hazelwood:
<http://propelschools.org/propel-hazelwood>

Propel Charter School Northside:
<http://propelschools.org/propel-northside>

Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School:
www.urbanacademypgh.org

Urban Pathways K-5 College Charter School: www.upcsk5.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>