

# Definitions and sources of information

All information is from the 2017-18 school year unless noted.

**PPS:** Pittsburgh Public Schools ([www.pghschools.org](http://www.pghschools.org))

**PDE:** Pennsylvania Department of Education ([www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov))

## Top of page information:

### School name, address, neighborhood, phone number, principal/administrator, School Board representative

*Definition:* The current school name, principal, acting principal, or administrator; and school board representative (for PPS schools) are listed. "PreK" in a school name means the school serves children from ages three to five in an early childhood program. Dilworth's principal had not been named at time of publication.

*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 "Distinguished" performance level

*Definition:* The percentage of teachers who performed at the "Distinguished" level, according to the district's measure of teacher effectiveness. The other possible performance levels are "Proficient," "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 information, including academic growth and student survey responses. Some charter schools provided equivalent information.

*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.

### Percentage of students attending college/trade school

*Definition:* Percentage of 2017 graduates who enrolled in colleges/universities or trade schools in 2017 (seamless enrollment). For more information, visit [www.studentclearinghouse.org](http://www.studentclearinghouse.org).

*Sources:* PPS (National Student Clearinghouse report) and City Charter High School.

### 6-year college completion rate

*Definition:* The percentage of students who graduated from high school in 2012 and completed a two- or four-year degree by 2018. No information was available for Sci-Tech 6-12 because it didn't have 12th grade in 2012.

*Sources:* PPS (National Student Clearinghouse report) and City Charter High School.

### GPA 3.0 and above

*Definition:* The number of seniors at the end of 2018 with an overall unweighted grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher.

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

### Met SAT Math and Reading standards

*Definition:* The percentage of students whose best score on the SAT met or exceeded the College and Career Readiness Benchmarks for Evidence-based Reading and Writing, and for Math. The SAT is an admissions test required by many colleges. No information was available for City Charter High School students because most take the ACT, rather than the SAT. For more information, visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/about/scores/benchmarks>.

*Source:* PPS.

## Top middle of page:

### Number of teachers

*Definition:* Total number of classroom teachers in the school as of fall 2017.

*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 2017.

*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 2014-15 school year to the 2017-18 school year, including mid-year changes for PPS schools. Schools with "n/a" opened within the last four years.

*Sources:* PPS and charter schools.

### Enrollment

*Definition:* Total number of students enrolled in the school as of October 2017.

*Sources:* PPS and charter schools.

### Student race/ethnicity

*Definition:* Students' race/ethnicity reflects PPS definitions, and is based on parents' identification. Charter schools provided similar information. We report percentages of students in each 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.

### IEP

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

*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.

### Capture rate

*Definition:* The percentage of students assigned to the school who were enrolled in the school in 2017-18. For schools with partial magnet programs, capture rate applies only to the neighborhood component. The denominator includes students who attend private, parochial, and charter schools, as well as students who attend other district schools.

*Source:* PPS.

### Parents recommend school

*Definition:* On the PPS 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 (white and black only), economic disadvantage, and IEP status.

*Sources:* PPS and charter schools.

## College/trade school readiness:

### Graduation rates over time

*Definition:* PDE determined the graduation rate by tracking the number of individual 9th graders in 2013 who graduated in 2017 or earlier (the "cohort" rate). A similar calculation was used for "graduation rates over time." 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.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Cohort-Graduation-Rate-.aspx#tab-1](http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Cohort-Graduation-Rate-.aspx#tab-1). Information is for 2017, the most recent year available.

*Source:* PDE.

### Percentage of seniors eligible for Pittsburgh Promise scholarship

*Definition:* Percentage of 2018 seniors (as of May 2018) by race, economic disadvantage, and IEP status who met or exceeded the grade point average requirement for the Promise, including the Promise's Extension program. This is one of several criteria for eligibility to receive scholarship funds from the Pittsburgh Promise (see PPS Web site or [www.pittsburghpromise.org](http://www.pittsburghpromise.org) for more information). Subgroups with 10 or fewer students were 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.

### 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." For Obama 6-12, we report the percentage of 11th and 12th graders taking International Baccalaureate Diploma Program classes, which are advanced classes. City Charter High School students do not take AP classes.

*Sources:* PPS and Urban Pathways 6-12 Charter 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 in 6-12 schools. Subgroups with 10 or fewer students were reported as "n/a."

*Source:* PPS.

### Average combined SAT scores

*Definition:* Average of students' best combined scores on the SAT, by race, economic disadvantage, and IEP status. The SAT is an admissions test required by many colleges. Subgroups with 10 or fewer students were reported as "n/a." No information was available for City Charter High School students because most take the ACT, rather than the SAT.

*Source:* PPS.

### Average combined ACT scores (City Charter High School only)

*Definition:* Average of students' best combined scores on the ACT, by race, economic disadvantage, and IEP status. The ACT is a college admissions test. Subgroups with 10 or fewer students were reported as "n/a."

*Source:* 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:* (1) Percentages of students, by subgroup, at each achievement level on the 2018 PSSA (Pennsylvania System of School Assessment) 3rd grade English Language Arts (ELA) test. Percentages of 3rd-5th graders, and 6th-8th graders, by subgroup, at each achievement level on 2018 PSSA ELA and Math tests, with comparable district-level information, and the school trend (whether over the past four years, scores increased, shown with an upward triangle; decreased, shown with a downward triangle; or remained about the same, shown with a circle). If a bar has no trend indicator, we didn't have four years of data for that subgroup to determine a trend. "n/a" next to a district bar means the school had 0-10 students in that subgroup. (2) Percentages of students, by subgroup, at each achievement level on the 2018 Algebra I Keystone Exam in 8th grade, and Literature, Algebra I, and Biology Keystone exams by the end of 11th grade. 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) for PSSA tests and Keystone exams 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. A subgroup can meet 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.

### Special education services

*Definition:* For PPS schools, special education services provided by school staff in the 2018-19 school year, excluding programs for students identified as "gifted." Other services not listed here may be provided by itinerant staff depending on students' needs. *Note:* Charter schools are also required to provide special education services to meet students' needs.

*Source:* PPS.

## Information by level:

### Average site-based cost per student

*Definition:* See p. 14.

*Source:* PPS.

### Average counselor/student ratio

*Definition:* For PPS schools, the average number of students per counselor by level, calculated by dividing the total number of counselors for that level by the number of students enrolled in that level. "Counselor" includes developmental advisors in K through 8th grades and guidance counselors in 9-12 grades.

*Source:* PPS.

### State average PSSA and Keystone performance

*Definition:* See "PSSA tests and Keystone exams."

*Source:* PDE.