

Call to Action for March 24th:

We hope that the information you heard today made you think, and made you realize that for all students to get a high quality education, that we all have to do something. If we all just sit around and wait because we think it's someone else's fault or responsibility, then nothing will get better. And as students, we need it to get better! So our call to action today is to everyone in this room:

First we want to recognize everyone who has come out today to build our commitment to effective teaching. When we ask each group to stand please give them a round of applause to show our appreciation for what they do every day for students. Once you stand, stay standing:

- Will teachers, principals, guidance counselors and other school staff who are with us today, please stand up.
- Will Pittsburgh Public Schools' leadership – central office and school board members – please stand up.
- Will parents and caregivers of children and youth please stand up.
- Will community members who care about and/or provide services to students please stand up.
- Will students in the room please stand up.

Please stay standing.

What we need from everyone is a commitment to equity: to doing whatever it takes to make sure that we and the rest of our fellow students have the individual supports we need to be prepared for college or training so that we can be successful in life. Are you committed to equity?

From Pittsburgh Public Schools administration, we need for you to make sure that every student has what they need to learn- especially in feeder schools.

- We need you to keep working to develop effective teachers that have high standards for students and for teaching.
- We need you to make sure that all students have the books and materials they need and for you to make public what schools should be providing to students so that everyone knows what to expect from their school.
- We need you to be committed to making sure that at the start of next school year, every school has a school wide behavior management system in place that students have helped to shape.
 - We want behavior systems that include teaching students appropriate behaviors and how to replace inappropriate behaviors.
 - Schools should be monitoring implementation of their system and making adjustments using data so that every school has a positive learning environment.

Are you committed to higher standards for students and teachers, making sure schools respectfully handle behavior and providing books and materials to all students by the start of next school year?

From all of you who work in our schools – principals, teachers, guidance counselors and other school staff,

- We need you to keep working on getting better at teaching and inspire us to keep getting better too.
- We need for you to demand more of students – assign homework in every type of course so that every student has a future.
- We need you to be committed to making sure that when mainstream and PSP courses are combined next year that standards will be raised and not lowered.

We won't give up on you if you don't give up on us. Are you committed to making sure we learn?

From our families,

- We need for you to communicate regularly with your student's teacher.
- We need you to know what books and materials your student should have so that you can make sure that they get it.
- We need you to help us pick courses and make sure we're on track to graduate ready for the Pittsburgh Promise.

From community members,

- We need for you to support our schools, our teachers, and us as students
- We need you to be involved - volunteer, mentor, tutor and advocate for us
- We need you to vote for elected officials who care about and fund public schools

As students, we are committed to:

- Working with school staff to participate and give input into the creating of a school-wide behavior management plan and help to implement it among students.
- Initiating open communication with adults in our schools and create opportunities for students to build positive relationships with teachers
- Not living up to the stereotype of a student who doesn't care and getting our peers to do the same.

Some of what we've asked you to commit to can start right now; some will take more time. We will ask everyone to be ready to come together at the start of the 2012-13 school year to report on progress. We hope that together because of all of our work, we will see every high school- and especially feeder schools providing all their students and teachers with what they need to be successful. We will hold up to our end of the bargain, will you?