

# Program for Students with Exceptionalities

Education Committee Meeting  
10/5/2016



Amy Filipowski,  
Executive Director



Pittsburgh  
Public Schools

EXCELLENCE  
FOR ALL

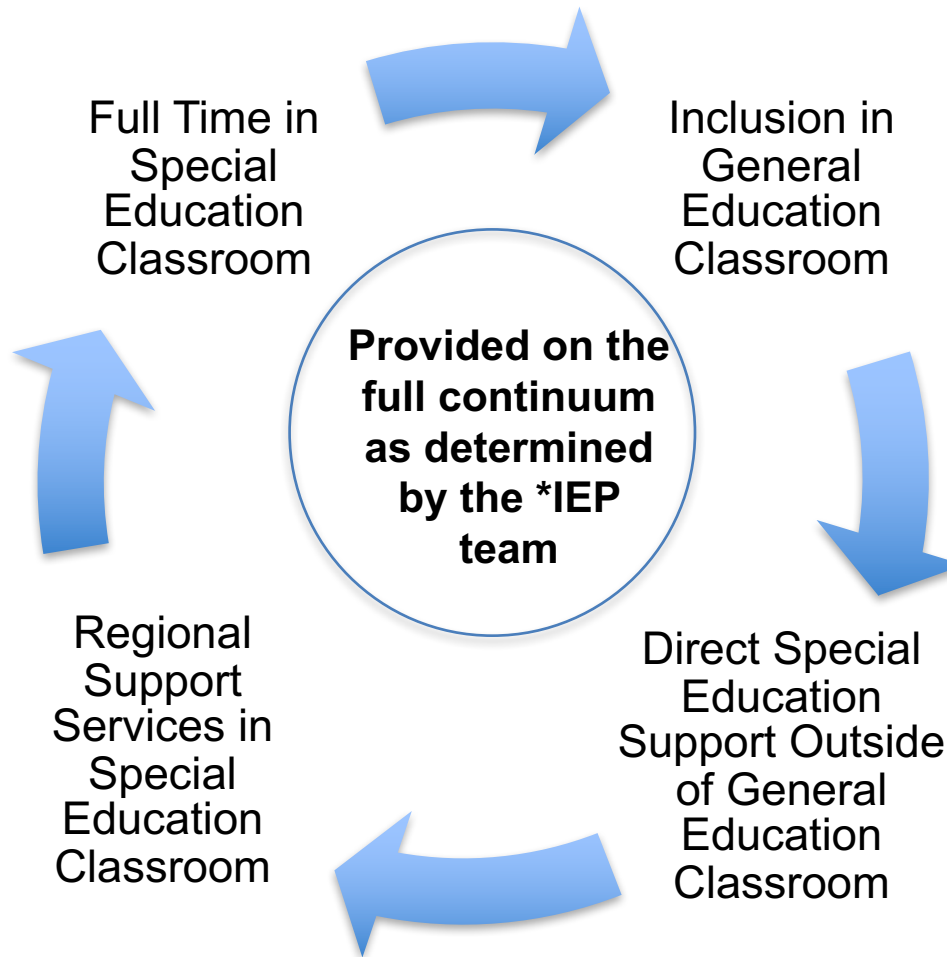
*The Pathway to the Promise.™*

# Program for Students with Exceptionalities (PSE) Demographics

- **Current 2016-17 Total enrollment:** 23,482
- 4,125 or 17.5% are students with disabilities

School Year	Total Enrollment	Students with Disabilities	Trends	
2012-2013	24,785	4,482 or 18.0%	Total Enrollment	Students with Disabilities
2013-2014	24,587	4,251 or 17.2%	↓	↓ %
2014-2015	23,227	4,092 or 17.6%		↑ %
2015-2016	23,268	4,210 or 19.5%		↑ %

# Provision of Special Education Supports



\*Individualized Education Plan

# PSE Challenges and Responses

## Challenges

**Out-of-school suspension rates for students with disabilities**

- PPS 16.58% v. State 2.42%

**Over-representation of students of color identified in the category of Emotional Disturbance**

## Response to the Challenges

School-wide Positive Behavioral Supports and Interventions as alternatives to suspension

Collaboration with Dr. Graves, Professor Duquesne University

-PD for Psychologists on cultural awareness & strength-based assessments

Strengthen Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS)



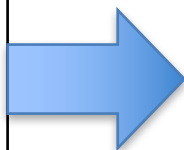
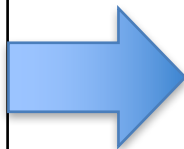
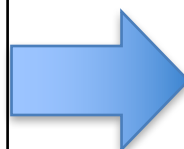
# PSE Challenges and Responses

## Challenges

**Ensuring students are in the Least Restrictive Environment**

**Meaningful Inclusive Practices**

**Noncompliance with Special Education Processes and Procedures**



## Response to the Challenges

Provide training and instructional support for General Education Teachers

Collaborate with Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Team  
Professional Development on research-based instructional strategies

Provide training for Special Education Teachers  
Greater support to schools through Program Officers

## Professional Learning and Growth Guide

### 2015-16 Focus:

- Using the Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) as an Instructional Tool
- Standards-Aligned IEPs
- Progress Monitoring

### 2016-17 Focus:

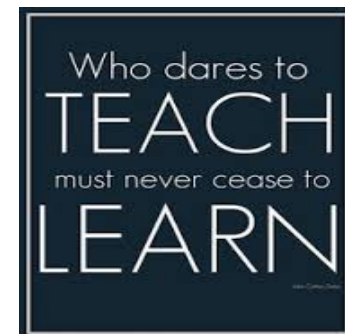
- Effective Inclusive Practices
- Research-based Instructional Strategies
- Educational Benefit Review





# Professional Development

- New teacher Induction Professional Development (PD) for PSE and General Education Teachers
- Collaborate with Curriculum Supervisors on Content PD
- August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Administrator training on PSE challenges and solutions
- August 24<sup>th</sup>: Co-planning sessions with General Education and Special Education Teachers
- October 6<sup>th</sup>: Administrator Training on MTSS & Suspensions
- November 8<sup>th</sup>: Inclusive Practice Focus for all teachers
- 2016-17 Ongoing PD Opportunities for All Stakeholders
  - 52 Sessions      Special Education Teachers
  - 22 Sessions      General Education Teachers
  - 12 Sessions      Parents
  - 24 Sessions      Administrators
  - 27 Sessions      Paraprofessional/PCAs



# PSE Strengths

- Curriculum Updates
- Secondary Transition Programming ages 14-21
- Fee for Service model
- Strong Collaboration with Parents
- Community Partnerships
- Include Me from the Start
- Unified Sports
- Educational Leadership Groups  
focused on Inclusion





# Collaboration with Families

## PITTSBURGH Local Task Force on the Right to Education



Parents, educators and local agencies working together on behalf of students with disabilities in the Pittsburgh Public Schools

Parent-to-Parent Helpline  
412-323-3996  
Ltf2pgh@gmail.com

### Learning Opportunities

#### Special Education 101

09/27/2016 4:00-6:00 PSE PD Suite at Oliver Citywide Academy  
10/11/2016 5:00-7:00 Webinar

This session will focus on the basic terms, processes and procedures of special education.

#### What do Psychological Assessments Really Mean?

10/18/2016 4:00-6:00 PSE PD Suite at Oliver Citywide Academy  
11/01/2016 5:00-7:00 Webinar

This session will focus on various psychological assessments and what the results mean for instruction.

#### Inclusive Practices: How to Support Students with Disabilities in General Education Classrooms

10/25/2016 4:00-6:00 PSE PD Suite at Oliver Citywide Academy  
This session will focus on the use of effective scaffolds and supports that enable students with disabilities to be successful in general education classrooms.

#### Implementing the IEP as an Instructional Tool

12/13/2016 4:00-6:00 PSE PD Suite at Oliver Citywide Academy  
01/30/2017 5:00-7:00 Webinar

This session will focus on what it means to use the IEP as an instructional tool and how it can be developed to provide a rigorous instructional plan for learning.

#### Standards Aligned Goals

01/17/2017 4:00-6:00 PSE PD Suite at Oliver Citywide Academy  
02/06/17 5:00-7:00 Webinar

This session will strengthen the participants' knowledge of the standards and how to develop standards aligned IEP goals.

#### Recognizing and Supporting Students under Stress

03/07/2017 4:00-6:00 Webinar  
This session will focus on the types of stress students may experience, how to recognize when students are under stress, and the tools and strategies participants can use to support the student.

#### The Hidden Curriculum

5/15/2017 4:00-6:00 Webinar  
This session will focus on supporting students with autism and other disabilities learn to develop the social skills needed to get along successfully in society.

To register or get more information on these sessions, please call or email Mindy Sturgess, PSE Curriculum Support [msturgess1@pghps.net](mailto:msturgess1@pghps.net) or (412) 329-3144

## Learning Together

Families and PSE  
collaborating to  
provide the best  
education for  
students with  
disabilities



2016- 2017 School Year

# EDUCATION RIGHTS NETWORK

A **ONEPITTSBURGH** Campaign

# Unified Sports and Student Leadership

