



# news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**For Immediate Release**

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## ***District Consultant Shares Base Scenario for Reimagined Portfolio in Pittsburgh Public Schools Recommends Streamlining District from 54 to 40 Schools Closes 16 Schools and Opens 2 New Schools Expands Access to Specialized Programs and Pathways***

PITTSBURGH, August 13, 2024 – In a significant move toward reimagining the future of education in Pittsburgh, District consultant Education Resource Strategies (ERS) presented a bold and comprehensive base scenario for school portfolio changes within the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). Shared at this evening’s Board Education Committee Meeting, the proposed changes align closely with the feedback and collective priorities shared through the community engagement process, reflecting the voices of students, families, staff, and community members. Today’s base scenario will begin another round of community engagement to inform a final recommendation for Board consideration next month.

"We are pleased to see that the consultant is respecting our community engagement process and bringing forward a base scenario for consideration," said Superintendent Wayne N. Walters. "This recommendation clearly aligns with our community’s priorities, and ERS will continue to gather feedback before submitting a final proposal next month."

Over the past two months, the Board of Directors has engaged in 11 community town halls and listening sessions, gathering insights from stakeholders, including students, families, staff, and community members. Additional input was collected through student focus groups, meetings with school leaders, advisory committees, surveys, and individual interviews. This extensive community input shaped the scenarios for transforming the District’s school portfolio.

The ERS proposal outlines a district-wide scenario, serving as a foundational starting point for the PPS administration and board to consider. This “base scenario” offers a clear picture of what Pittsburgh Public Schools might look like in the future if the District undertakes significant changes to the number, size, location, type, and building quality of its schools. The scenario includes multiple decision points, allowing for flexible options within each region of the city.

### **Key Highlights of the ERS Proposal:**

- **Grade Configurations:** Transition to K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 grade configurations across the district.
- **School Consolidation:** Consolidate schools that fall below a target enrollment range, with relocations for early childhood and ESL programs currently housed in buildings slated for closure.



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- **Specialized Programs:** Expansion of specialized programs in neighborhood schools, creation of a new Career and Technical Education (CTE) center for 9-12 students, and the introduction of neighborhood magnet schools with guaranteed access for local students.
- **Expansion, Renovations & Repurposed Space:** Expand building capacities and add dedicated spaces and amenities to existing schools.

### **Base Scenario Shifts District from 54 to 40 Schools**

The base scenario envisions streamlining the District from 54 to 40 schools, involving the closure of 16 schools, consolidation of 14 school configurations, and the transition of six magnet schools into neighborhood schools. The plan includes opening nine new schools and programs, such as a CTE Center in the Carrick facility, new STEM, and arts pathways, and expanding access to the International Baccalaureate program at Pittsburgh Obama. The scenario also reduces K-5 magnet programs to just one, with Pittsburgh Montessori remaining due to its unique instructional model.

Given the significant scope and impact, the implementation of this plan will require a phased approach, ensuring careful planning over multiple years to avoid disruptions to student learning and to design schools that meet future needs. ERS shared what these portfolio shifts could look like by region and offered regional options and choice points for community consideration.

### **South/West Region – New CTE Center**

In the South/West region, five schools are recommended for closure: Pittsburgh Carrick High School, South Brook 6-8, South Hills 6-8, Roosevelt K-5, and Whittier K-5. As part of the plan, Pittsburgh Carrick would merge with Pittsburgh Brashear, creating a new state-of-the-art Career and Technical Education (CTE) center in the Carrick facility to serve students in grades 9-12 and community members in the evenings.

Four schools would undergo grade configuration changes: Pittsburgh Brookline and Pittsburgh Langley will shift from K-8 to K-5 schools. Langley's 6-8 students will transition to Pittsburgh Classical 6-8, while Brookline's 6-8 students will move to the newly consolidated Pittsburgh Carmalt 6-8, which will also absorb South Brook 6-8.

The Carmalt magnet program would phase out, with K-5 students transitioning to Brookline K-5 or West Liberty K-5. Pittsburgh Arlington would become a full 6-8 school, with PreK-5 students moving to feeder schools Grandview, Beechwood, West Liberty, or Brookline. The South Hills 6-8 feeder pattern will merge with the reconfigured Arlington 6-8.

Pittsburgh Roosevelt K-5's feeder pattern would shift to Pittsburgh West Liberty PreK-5 and Concord K-5, with the Roosevelt Early Childhood Program expanding to accommodate PreK students from Carmalt and Arlington. Whittier K-5 students will transition to Pittsburgh Langley and Westwood.

Other options and choice points for community consideration include building a new K-5 in the South, keeping Whittier open and closing Grandview.



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#### **North – New STEM Pathway and Pittsburgh CAPA 6-8 Neighborhood Magnet School**

In the North region, four schools are recommended for closure: Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8, Manchester PreK-8, Pittsburgh Schiller 6-8, and Pittsburgh Spring Hill K-5. The plan suggests redesigning the Pittsburgh Manchester facility to house a new CAPA 6-8 neighborhood magnet school, guaranteeing access for local students. The existing Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 school Downtown would consolidate to a 9-12 school, allowing for increased enrollment in this highly sought-after program.

Additional recommended changes include consolidating Pittsburgh King PreK-8 into a 6-8 STEM neighborhood school, with a pathway to expanded STEM programming at Pittsburgh Perry High School. Pittsburgh King's K-5 students would transition to an expanded Pittsburgh Allegheny K-5, which would phase out its magnet program to become a neighborhood school. Spring Hill K-5 students would also attend Allegheny K-5. Pittsburgh Morrow would consolidate to a PreK-5 school within the expanded Morrow Intermediate building, with 6-8 students attending King 6-8. Pittsburgh Schiller would merge with King, and King's PreK classrooms would move to Allegheny, while Manchester PreK would move to Morrow. Families in the North region are also presented with options and choice points, including keeping Schiller open and co-locating a CTE center at Pittsburgh Perry.

#### **East/Central Recommendations Create and Expand Specialized Programs and Pathways**

As part of the East/Central region recommendations, seven schools are slated for closure: Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, Fulton PreK, Lincoln PreK-5, Linden PreK-5, Milliones 6-12, Weil PreK-5, and Woolslair PreK-5. Two magnet schools, Pittsburgh Dilworth PreK-5 and Pittsburgh Liberty PreK-5, would transition into neighborhood schools, with Dilworth becoming the feeder school for students from Fulton. Pittsburgh Sunnyside would shift from a PreK-8 to a PreK-5 school. Sunnyside and Liberty K-5 would serve as the home schools for students from the Woolslair PreK-5 and Arsenal PreK-5 feeder areas.

Pittsburgh Linden would be phased out, with the facility repurposed as the new home for Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-5, which will remain the sole K-5 magnet program in the district due to its distinctive instructional model featuring multi-aged classrooms, self-directed learning, and Montessori-certified staff.

The plan also recommends converting Pittsburgh Colfax into a 6-8 school, while Pittsburgh Greenfield and Pittsburgh Mifflin would shift from PreK-8 to PreK-5 schools, with their 6-8 students moving to Colfax 6-8.

#### **Expanded Access to Specialized Programs East/Central**

To enhance STEM access, the Milliones facility will become the new home for the Pittsburgh Science and Technology (SciTech) 6-8 neighborhood magnet school, while the existing SciTech 6-12 will consolidate into a 9-12 neighborhood magnet. Pittsburgh Arsenal 6-8 will expand to become a Middle



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Years Programme school, enabling Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 to consolidate into a 9-12 neighborhood magnet featuring the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. To accommodate this change students in the 6-8 Obama program will transition to Arsenal 6-8.

Additionally, Pittsburgh Westinghouse will transition from a 6-12 to a 9-12 school, adding an Entertainment Technology program from Milliones 6-12 and a full-scale Entrepreneurship program to equip students with management skills and support promising business ideas. To accommodate this change, 6-8 students currently served by Westinghouse would transition to Pittsburgh Sterrett 6-8.

The recommendation provides options to close Pittsburgh Mifflin and send students to Greenfield and Minadeo. It also suggests the District could choose to close Pittsburgh Montessori and have students attend their neighborhood school and keep Weil open and close Miller.

### **Creation of Teacher Centers**

The plan also recommends the opening of teachers centers across the District to create dedicated spaces for teachers to learn and improve their instructional practice with model classrooms and hands-on support from experts. The scenario offers Pittsburgh Mifflin, Milliones, Lincoln and Whitter as potential homes for the new centers.

### **Next Steps:**

A final recommendation will be provided for Board consideration this September, following another round of community engagement in August and early September. This will be an opportunity for students, staff, families, and the community to learn more about the proposed plan and to provide input that will inform the final recommendation. The final recommendation will address key aspects of school portfolio changes, including attendance zones, transportation policies, magnet enrollment policies, and financial considerations. For more information on the proposed changes and find dates for upcoming community engagement sessions, please visit [www.pghschools.org/facilitiesuplan](http://www.pghschools.org/facilitiesuplan).

**Please see below a complete summary view of the Base Scenario.**

Close 16 Schools	Close 9 School Buildings	Change Grade Configurations of 14 Schools	Transition 6 Magnet Schools to Neighborhood Schools**	Open 9 New Schools & Programs
Carrick High School	Whittier	Brookline PreK-8 to Brookline PreK-5	Carmal PreK-8 changes to Carmalt 6-8	CTE Center in Carrick Facility
Roosevelt K-5	Spring Hill	Carmalt PreK-8 to Carmalt 6-8	Allegheny K-5 (expands into Allegheny facility)	STEM pathway via King 6-8 and Perry 9-12

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South Hills 6-8	Morrow Primary Building	Langley K-8 to Langley K-5	Liberty PreK-5	New CAPA 6-8 neighborhood magnet in Manchester facility
South Brook 6-8	Schiller	Arlington PreK-8 to Arlington 6-8	Dilworth PreK-5	New Sci Tech 6-8 neighborhood magnet in Millions facility
Whittier PreK-5	Woolslair	King PreK-8 to King 6-8	Classical 6-8	Arsenal 6-8 expands to become neighborhood magnet middle years programme school (
Spring Hill K-5	Fulton	Morrow PreK-8 to Morrow K-5	**Linden PreK-5 becomes home of Montessori magnet program.	Entrepreneurship program at Westinghouse and expanded CTE with Entertainment Technology
Schiller 6-8	Lincoln	CAPA 6-12 to CAPA 9-12		Teacher Centers (3)
Manchester K-8	Weil	Westinghouse 6-12 to Westinghouse 9-12		
Allegheny 6-8	Friendship (Montessori)	Sunnyside PreK-8 to Sunnyside PreK-5		
Arsenal PreK-5		Colfax K-8 to Colfax 6-8		
Millions 6-12		Greenfield PreK-8 to Greenfield PreK-5		
Woolslair PreK-5		Mifflin PreK-8 to Mifflin PreK-5		
Fulton PreK-5 (Relocated to Dilworth building)		Sci Tech 6-12 to Sci Tech 9-12 Neighborhood Magnet		
Lincoln PreK-5		Obama 6-12 to Obama 9-12 Neighborhood Magnet		
Weil PreK-5				
Linden PreK-5				

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