

## Dr. Wayne N. Walters, Superintendent of Schools

341 South Bellefield Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15213

superintendentsoffice@pghschools. org 412-529-3600 Dear PPS Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the 2025-26 school year, I want to take this opportunity to share with you an important new initiative from Pittsburgh Public Schools that is designed to protect the safety of our students. We are thrilled to launch the "Stop for the Bus" campaign with the goal of reminding everyone in our community of the critical importance of following road safety rules, especially when it comes to school buses.

Last year, school buses across the country were passed by motorists illegally more than 45.2 million times - a troubling statistic that underscores the need for greater awareness and caution. When drivers fail to stop for a school bus, they put the lives of our children at risk. This campaign is our way of reinforcing the message that the safety of our students must always come first.

You will begin to see and hear more about this campaign through TV advertisements, social media and even yard signs around our city. These efforts are all aimed at one clear and simple message: **Stop for the Bus**. It's not only a legal requirement - it's a responsibility we all share to protect our children.

In addition to advertising, we will provide tools to schools to reiterate essential safety practices with our students, such as looking both ways before crossing the street and remaining vigilant of their surroundings while getting on and off the bus. We encourage you to reinforce these lessons at home by discussing them with your children and modeling safe behaviors when you're on the road.

As we prepare for another successful school year, I ask for your cooperation in ensuring the safety of all our students. Please remember to slow down, stay alert and always stop for the bus! Together, we can make our streets safer for everyone. If you would like to display a Stop for the Bus Yard sign, please contact Director of Public Relations and Media Content Ebony Pugh at <u>epugh1@pghschools.org</u> to arrange a time to pick one up from the administration building.

I appreciate your attention to this vital matter and your continued support of Pittsburgh Public Schools.

Sincerely,

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Wayne N. Walters, Ed.D. Superintendent Pittsburgh Public Schools