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341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For Immediate Release

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Education Resource Strategies Presents Final Recommendation for Facilities Utilization in Pittsburgh Public Schools Opening Three New Schools, Reconfiguring 12 Schools and Closing 14

PITTSBURGH October 15, 2024 – Education Resource Strategies (ERS) has unveiled its final facilities utilization recommendations for Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS). Focused on fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments for all students, the plan reflects extensive community input and aims to create a more efficient, equitable, and sustainable education system. The proposal suggests opening three new schools, reconfiguring 12 schools, and closing 14 schools and 10 facilities, which would reduce the District’s footprint from 54 to 42 schools.

The final recommendations include adjustments to special schools and programs and outline a K-12 system with scalable pathways, **establishing foundational K-5 schools, developmentally responsive middle schools, and high schools focused on preparing students for college, career, and life.** The Pittsburgh Board of Education has tasked Superintendent Wayne N. Walters with reviewing the feasibility of the recommendations before it initiates a public commentary period for the proposed closures.

"We are committed to creating inclusive and supportive learning environments where all students can thrive. The final recommendations from Education Resource Strategies (ERS), shaped by valuable community input, represent a thoughtful approach to achieving equity, excellence, and efficiency across our District," said Superintendent Wayne N. Walters, EdD. "While change can be challenging, this proposal offers a strategic vision for the future of Pittsburgh Public Schools. It aligns our facilities with the evolving needs of our students and communities, equity, excellence, and efficiency. My team and I will carefully review the feasibility of these recommendations as we continue to engage with our community to build a stronger, more sustainable future for PPS."

In developing its recommendations, ERS analyzed community feedback and multiple other factors, including building capacity and quality, student experience, enrollment trends, school location relative to student residences, historical school community dynamics, and the needs of special populations and historically marginalized communities.

"Our team’s task for the last 6 months has been to learn as much as we can about this district, its students and families, and put together a proposal to make bold changes to the mix and configuration of PPS schools across the city, in service of the educational needs of all students," said Jonathan Travers, President of ERS. "This proposal represents our best thinking on how PPS can evolve its schools to provide the best educational experience for every student."

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Key Benefits Highlighted in the ERS Proposal

- Grade reconfiguration to improve student transitions and experiences.
- Integration of Gifted and Talented programs into local schools.
- Expansion of English as a Second Language (ESL) sites to better serve multilingual learners.
- Relocation of programs for students with exceptionalities to improve accessibility.
- Renovations and upgrades to modernize facilities.
- Preservation of secondary-level magnet programming.
- Increased access to Pre-K programs throughout the District.

The driving rationale for the changes we're proposing is student experience: what are the configurations of schools, grade level enrollments, the equitable placement of special programs that enable the adults in every school to provide every student with the educational experience that aligns with the Superintendent's vision for equity and excellence?" said Dr. Angela King Smith, ERS partner and project leader.

Overview of the Proposed District Restructuring:

ERS's recommendation incorporates community feedback by proposing to keep **Pittsburgh Carrick High School, Pittsburgh Lincoln PreK-5, and Pittsburgh Whittier** open, despite their initial identification for closure. The recommendation also outlines adjustments for the District's Special Schools and supports maintaining the **Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12** program at its current location due to significant investments in the facility and strong student performance.

The proposed plan streamlines the District's structure from 54 to 42 schools, involving the closure of 14 schools and 10 facilities, as well as 12 school reconfigurations. It further relocates three special schools and one center program, transitions five full magnet schools and two partial magnet schools into neighborhood schools while opening three new schools:

- Pittsburgh Sci-Tech (6-8)
- Pittsburgh Northview (PreK-5)
- Pittsburgh Manchester (6-8)

South/West Region

- **Closures:** South Brook 6-8, South Hills 6-8, and Roosevelt K-5.
- Pittsburgh **Carrick High School** will remain open, ensuring two high schools continue serving the region.
- The **Roosevelt facility** will house both the Student Achievement Center and the Pittsburgh Online Academy drop-in site.
- **Brookline** becomes a K-5 school, with students in grades 6-8 moving to a newly consolidated **Carmalt 6-8**.

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- **Langley** will transition from a K-8 to a K-5 school, with students in grade 6-8 moving to Pittsburgh Classical 6-8.
- **Carmalt K-5** students will transition to Brookline K-5 or West Liberty K-5.
- **Pittsburgh Arlington** will become a full 6-8 school, with its PreK-5 students moving to feeder schools.
- The Spanish magnet program at **Pittsburgh Phillips** will be phased out.

North Region

- **Closures:** Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8, Manchester PreK-8, Schiller 6-8, Spring Hill K-5, and King PreK-8
- **Renovated facilities:** Pittsburgh Manchester will reopen as a 6-8 program. Northview Heights will reopen as a PreK-5 program, serving Spring Hill and Northview students.
- Both Manchester and Northview will also become English Language Development (ELD) sites.
- **Pittsburgh Allegheny PreK-5** will transition to a neighborhood school.
- A new **6-8 STEM neighborhood school** will provide a pathway to STEM programming at Pittsburgh Perry High School.
- **King K-5 students** will move to an expanded Pittsburgh Allegheny K-5, with King serving as a swing school during renovations.

East/Central Region

- **Closures:** Pittsburgh Arsenal PreK-5, Fulton PreK, Linden PreK-5, Milliones 6-12, Miller PreK-5, and Woolslair PreK-5.
- **Pittsburgh Dilworth and Liberty** will transition into neighborhood schools, and Sunnyside will shift from PreK-8 to PreK-5.
- **Pittsburgh Linden** will become the new home for Pittsburgh Montessori PreK-5, becoming the District's sole K-5 magnet school.
- **Colfax** will become a 6-8 school, with **Greenfield and Mifflin** shifting to PreK-5.
- **Milliones** will house the new SciTech Academy 6-8 neighborhood magnet, with the current SciTech 6-12 in Oakland consolidating into a 9-12 neighborhood magnet.
- **Arsenal 6-8** will expand to become a IB (Middle Years Programme) neighborhood magnet, and Pittsburgh Obama will transition to a 9-12 IB neighborhood magnet.
- **Westinghouse** will shift to a 9-12 model and add a Neighborhood Magnet, with its 6-8 students moving to Pittsburgh Sterrett 6-8.

Changes to the Hill District Plan

In a revision to the Hill District plan, ERS now recommends closing **Pittsburgh Miller PreK-5** instead of **Pittsburgh Weil**, citing factors such as location and renovation requirements.

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Special Schools and Programs

As part of its expanded final recommendations, ERS has proposed changes to the District's special schools and programs to align with its goal of creating more equitable and efficient educational pathways. Key recommendations include:

- **Pittsburgh Conroy** will relocate to the vacant South Brook 6-8 facility.
- The **Pittsburgh Online Academy** drop-in site will move to the vacant Roosevelt Intermediate facility.
- The **Student Achievement Center**, currently located in Homewood, will also transition to the Roosevelt facility.
- Gifted education services will be integrated into individual schools across the District, resulting in the closure of the **Gifted Center**.
- **Pittsburgh Clayton** will remain at its current location.

ERS did not provide specific recommendations for Oliver Citywide Academy, leaving those decisions to District officials to address as part of ongoing planning efforts.

Creation of Teacher Centers

Overwhelming support for teacher centers continues ERS to recommend the opening of three teacher centers across the District to create dedicated spaces for teachers to learn and improve their instructional practice.

Summary of the Final ERS Recommendations by Phase

The proposed portfolio changes have two fiscal impacts: annual operating costs and capital investments. With full implementation, ERS projects its proposal will result in a net change of up to \$3 million annually and the potential reduction in capital investment by more than \$50 million. 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 over four years:

- **Year 1: Prep, Transition & Renovation**
- **Year 2: Grade Realignment**
- **Year 3: Build & Open**
- **Year 4: Sustain & Support.**

Please see summary of the recommendation and phased plan on chart on following pages. To view the full presentation visit <https://www.pghschools.org/about/superintendent-of-schools/facilities-utilization-plan-new> .

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Timeline	Close 14 Schools	Close 10 Facilities	Change Grade Configurations of 12 Schools	Transition 6 Magnet/Programs Schools to Neighborhood Schools**	Open Schools & Programs
Spring 2025	Manchester PreK-8	Baxter (Student Achievement Center)	Morrow PreK-8 to Morrow K-5		
	Schiller 6-8	Schiller			
	Allegheny 6-8	Morrow (Morrow Primary)	Remove K-5 from King and Transition to Allegheny		
	Roosevelt K-5		Carmalt PreK-8 to Carmalt 6-8		
	Spring Hill K-5	Spring Hill			
	South Hills 6-8		Brookline PreK-8 to Brookline PreK-5		
	Miller PreK-5	McKelvey (Miller)			
	Linden K-5	Friendship			
	Arsenal PreK-5				
Summer 2025	Manchester 6-8 - Major Renovations King – Minor Renovations Brashear - Renovations Carmalt - Minor Renovations Brookline - Minor Renovations Beechwood - Minor Renovations Roosevelt - Minor Renovations Weil - Minor Renovations Linden - Minor Renovations				



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Timeline	Close 14 Schools	Close 10 Facilities	Change Grade Configurations of 12 Schools	Transition 6 Magnet Schools/Programs to Neighborhood Schools**	Open New Schools & Programs
Fall 2025			Open combined Sunnyside K-5	Open combined K-5 in Allegheny (expands into Allegheny facility) Open	
	Use King as temporary 6-8 and transition Schiller and Morrow 6-8 to King facility.				
				Open combined Carmalt 6-8	
		Open Student Achievement Center in Roosevelt facility		Open combined Liberty K-5	
		Open combined K-5 at Weil			
		Open Montessori in Linden Facility			
Timeline	Close 14 Schools	Close 10 Facilities	Change Grade Configurations of 12 Schools	Transition 6 Magnet/Programs Schools to Neighborhood Schools**	Open Schools & Programs
	Major renovations begin at Morrow Intermediate				
	King	King	Langley K-8 to Langley K-5		

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Spring 2026	South Brook	Conroy facility closes	Arlington PreK-8 to Arlington 6-8		
	Fulton	Fulton	Colfax K-8 to Colfax 6-8		
			Greenfield PreK-8 to Greenfield PreK-5		
	Woolslair	Woolslair	Mifflin PreK-8 to Mifflin PreK-5		
			Westinghouse 6-12 to Westinghouse 9-12		
			Obama 6-12 to Obama 9-12 Neighborhood Magnet		Arsenal 6-8 expands to become neighborhood magnet middle years program school
Summer 2026	Manchester – Major Renovations continue Morrow Intermediate – Major Renovations continue Northview – Major Renovations Classical – Renovations Banksville- Minor Renovations Phillips – Minor Renovations Arlington – Minor Renovations South Brook Minor Renovations Grandview – Minor Renovations Colfax – Minor Renovations Minadeo – Minor Renovations Greenfield Minor Renovations Mifflin Minor Renovations Sterrett – Minor Renovations Dilworth – Minor Renovations Obama - Renovations Milliones – Renovations Relocating Conroy Early Childhood				



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Timeline	Close 14 Schools	Close 10 Facilities	Change Grade Configurations of 12 Schools	Transition 6 Magnet/Programs Schools to Neighborhood Schools**	Open Schools & Programs
Fall 2026			Open combined 6-8 at Colfax	Open combined Classical 6-8	Open Manchester 6-8
			Open combined Arlington 6-8	Open combined 6-8 at Sterrett	
		Open Conroy at South Brook	Open combined K-5 at Greenfield	Open combined K-5 at Dilworth	
	Open larger K-5 at Grandview Open Combined K-5 at Minadeo				
Fall 2027					Open New Northview PreK-5
					Open New Sci Tech 6-8 neighborhood magnet in Milliones facility
Fall 2028					Open three new Teacher Centers

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