



# news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

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For Immediate Release

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## ***Superintendent Wayne N. Walters Announces No School Changes for 2025-2026 as Leadership Continues Feasibility Study and Planning to Inform Board Decisions***

### ***District Set to Host Magnet Fair Saturday, December 7***

PITTSBURGH, PA November 15, 2024- Superintendent Wayne N. Walters, Ed.D., announced today that no school changes will be recommended for the 2025-2026 school year to allow for a comprehensive review of facility utilization recommendations from Education Resource Strategies (ERS). Following the Board's request, Dr. Walters and his team are examining ERS's recommendations, which address key areas such as grade configurations, facility use, school consolidations, and program enhancements. Dr. Walters emphasized the District's commitment to ensuring that any proposed updates align with core priorities, resources, and the evolving needs of Pittsburgh's community.

"ERS has put forth transformative recommendations for reimagining the school portfolio of Pittsburgh Public Schools," said Dr. Walters. "We are focused on analyzing the proposed recommendations to assess feasibility in our District. To ensure adequate time for thoughtful planning and effective implementation, we recommend no changes for the 2025-2026 school year."

Dr. Walters also emphasized the importance of advancing equitable access to quality education, evidenced by improved student outcomes. "Change is essential to ensure that all students—no matter their zip code—have access to high-quality learning environments and experiences that prepare them for success in all aspects of life," he stated. "Our commitment is unwavering, and we will continue to build a future where every Pittsburgh Public Schools student has the resources and opportunities needed to thrive."

Approximately one month since ERS's presentation, Dr. Walters and his team are continuing an in-depth feasibility analysis. The final feasibility report, expected early in the new year, will present a proposed timeline to inform the Board's decision-making. Feasibility analysis is a comprehensive process that requires time intensive review in multiple key areas, such as educational supports, attendance zones, transportation, magnet, project management, communications and financial feasibility.



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Over the coming months, the Superintendent and District leadership will refine these focus areas, taking into account stakeholder input and an alternate plan presented by a group of District parents following ERS's recommendations.

"The Board is committed to ensuring that any recommendations prioritize the best interests of our students, families, and community," said Board President Gene Walker. "We value Dr. Walters' careful, strategic approach, which underscores our commitment to student success and school stability."

### **Magnet Fair to Take Place December 7<sup>th</sup>**

For current and new families interested in exploring and applying to magnet programs, the District will hold the Magnet Fair on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at Pittsburgh Obama (515 N. Highland Avenue) from 9 AM- 12 PM. Families can also learn about Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Early Childhood Education opportunities at the Magnet Fair. Recognizing the challenges families may face in making decisions about programs that could change in the future, Superintendent Walters offered reassurance: "While there will be no changes for the 2025-2026 school year, we understand that families still have questions about program availability in the years to come. We are committed to a stable and thoughtful approach to portfolio changes, ensuring high-quality options for the students and families of Pittsburgh Public Schools."

The Magnet Lottery Application period will run from Monday, December 9, 2024, to Friday, January 17, 2025. The deadline to apply for the magnet lottery and Pittsburgh CAPA first-round auditions is Friday, January 17, 2025, at 5 p.m. After January 17, applications will still be accepted for programs with available seats or for students wishing to be added to existing waiting lists. As leadership continues to review feasibility and phased implementation, the District cannot guarantee that students enrolled or accepted into a magnet school will be able to remain beyond the 2025-2026 school year.

To be eligible to apply for a magnet program, students must be enrolled in Pittsburgh Public Schools. Families with children currently attending private, parochial, or charter schools, as well as current PPS PreK students, must complete the enrollment process to attend a neighborhood school or apply for a magnet program. The online enrollment process opens on December 2, 2024, at [www.pghschools.org/enroll](http://www.pghschools.org/enroll).

A summary of the final ERS recommendations currently under review can be found on the District's website at [www.pghschools.org/facilitiesuplan](http://www.pghschools.org/facilitiesuplan).

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