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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

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For Immediate Release

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Superintendent Wayne N. Walters Highlights Stabilizing Enrollment Figures and Gains in Key Grade Levels

PITTSBURGH, December 9, 2024— Superintendent Dr. Wayne N. Walters announced official K-12 student membership data for the Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), reporting an enrollment of 18,312 students as of October 1, 2024. This year’s enrollment reflects a slight decrease of 68 students (0.37%) compared to the previous year’s 18,380 students, marking significant progress in stabilizing enrollment. This is a substantial improvement compared to prior declines of 1.47% in 2023-24 and 2.60% in 2022-23. Before Dr. Walters' tenure as Superintendent, the District experienced an average yearly enrollment loss of 2.4% for over a decade. Under his leadership, the rate of decline has markedly decreased, with last year showing a steep reduction and this year continuing the positive trend. These figures underscore the District’s ongoing commitment to attracting and retaining families in PPS.

“Our enrollment data reflects both the challenges and opportunities we face as a District,” said Dr. Walters. “The continued growth in elementary enrollment and the first signs of growth in middle school enrollment are encouraging indicators of families’ trust in PPS to provide a strong educational foundation. At the same time, we are committed to ensuring that all students and families have access to high-quality, equitable educational opportunities. These trends reaffirm our dedication to creating a District where every family feels supported and every student can achieve success.”

Promising Trends in Enrollment Data:

- **Elementary Grades (K-5):** Elementary student enrollment increased for the second consecutive year, adding 30 students (0.35%), signaling growing confidence among families with young children.
- **Middle Grades (6-8):** Middle school enrollment recorded its first increase since the 2012-13 school year, with a gain of 22 students (0.55%), marking a significant milestone for the District.
- **Overall Stability:** The year-over-year decline in student enrollment continues to improve, reflecting the District’s efforts to enhance equity, excellence, and efficiency.

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Areas for Growth:

Despite these positive trends, the data highlights challenges in early childhood enrollment. A decline of 126 students (9.10%) reduced early childhood enrollment from 1,384 in 2023-24 to 1,258 in 2024-25. While tuition-based early childhood spaces are at capacity, Head Start-eligible spaces remain available at several locations across the city.

Additionally, the District noted enrollment decreases in special schools (53 students) and secondary schools (67 students), an area that requires targeted focus moving forward.

Superintendent Walters emphasized the significance of the positive trends while addressing the need for continued focus on early childhood education. “The growth in our elementary and middle school enrollment is a testament to the dedication of our educators, administrators, and community partners who work tirelessly to meet the needs of our students and families,” he said. “While we celebrate these successes, we remain committed to addressing early childhood enrollment challenges as we know the critical impact a strong start has on a student’s future academic journey.”

For more information about enrollment data, including school-by-school membership figures, please visit the Enrollment Summary found on the [Pittsburgh Public Schools Data Dashboards](#) section of the website.

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