



Pittsburgh Public Schools Manchester Special Public Hearing Testimonies
July 28, 2025

#1

Fatuma Muhina

Parent, Organization, Community Member



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#2

Stephanie Lapine

Teacher/Staff



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#3

Emily Sawyer

Parent, Other Substitute Teacher



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#4

Valerie Webb-Allman

Parent, Community Member

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#5

Lisa Lederer

Parent

The Pittsburgh Public Schools reorganization plan details that “the middle school program, which serves grades 6, 7, and 8, removes the early adolescent from . . . younger children with whom they have little in common and, at the same time, protects them from the overly-sophisticated atmosphere of high school with its more mature students.” This seems like a strong rationale for the proposed grade reconfiguration -- but it is worth noting that this quote comes from the Pittsburgh Public Schools’ Reorganization Plan published in 1974.

A somewhat more recent article, published in a peer-reviewed journal in 2020, used latent growth modeling of standardized test scores to conclude that “experiencing a school transition during early adolescence is associated with detrimental outcomes. While some studies show non-significant differences between grade configurations, to [the authors’] knowledge there is no empirical evidence that shows negative outcomes for placing students in elementary schools through at least seventh grade.”

I do not mean to suggest that the debate over grade configuration is closed. I only to beg that we allow it to remain open to public comment.