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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Ebony Pugh (412) 475-1523

Pittsburgh Public Schools Releases Updated Enrollment Analysis Highlighting Ten-Year Trends and 2025–26 Official Student Membership

Early Childhood and Kindergarten Enrollment Show Promising Signs of Stability

PITTSBURGH, PA December 10, 2025- Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) today released its updated *K–12 Enrollment Trends* analysis alongside the District's Official K–12 Student Membership as of October 1, 2025, offering a comprehensive view of long-term enrollment patterns and the most current snapshot of student membership across the District.

According to the official count, PPS enrolled **17,937 K–12 students** as of October 1, 2025, a decline of 375 students, or 2.05%, from last year's official membership of 18,312. Early childhood programs, however, saw a slight increase with enrollment rising 1.27%, from 1,258 students in 2024–25 to 1,274 in 2025–26. Grades K–5 experienced the smallest year-over-year change, declining by just 35 students (0.41%), following last year's increase in early grade enrollment. This minimal shift signals a continuing stabilization among the District's youngest learners.

"While our overall enrollment continues to decline, we are encouraged by early signs of stabilization among our youngest learners. These are signs that our work to rebuild trust with families is taking hold," said Superintendent Wayne N. Walters. At the same time, the school-by-school data make clear that our current footprint cannot sustain the level of academic and enrichment opportunities our students deserve. With 23 schools now enrolling fewer than 250 students, we cannot continue spreading resources so thinly and expect to deliver the rich, comprehensive programming our students deserve."

Ten-Year Enrollment Trends Show Continued Declines in Resident Population Decreases

The broader enrollment trends report shows PPS enrollment has declined by 22.8% since the 2015–16 school year, while the total number of school-aged children living within district boundaries declined by 12.6% over the same period. Charter school enrollment increased by 46.6%, while private school enrollment decreased by 11.5%.

In 2015–16, 69.4% of students living in the City of Pittsburgh attended PPS. By 2025–26, that number decreased to 61.3%, with 19.4% attending charter schools and approximately 19% attending private schools.

Student Mobility Driven More by Moves Than School Transfers

The analysis finds that most year-to-year enrollment changes occur because families move rather than transfer between PPS, charter, or private schools. On average, 88.9% of PPS students remain enrolled from June to October each year. Meanwhile, 1.1 % transfer to private schools, 2.8% to charter schools and 7.2% move out of the District. Transition points show the highest mobility:

- **After 5th grade:** 216 students leave PPS and 130 students join.
- **After 8th grade:** The largest shift occurs, with an average of 302 students leaving and 245 joining PPS each year.



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These patterns signal significant school choice decisions at key transition years, including movement to charter and private schools and relocation out of the city.

Signs of Stabilization Among the District's Youngest Learners

Despite overall declines, early childhood and kindergarten data indicate encouraging early signs of stabilization in PPS's youngest grades. Early childhood enrollment increased by 16 students this year, and kindergarten enrollment has strengthened following pandemic-era fluctuations. PPS now enrolls approximately 67% of kindergarten-aged children living in the District, an improvement that reflects a growing share of families choosing PPS at the start of their educational journey. From 2021–2025, kindergarten enrollment averaged 1,547 students, compared with 1,418 during the pandemic period and 1,912 pre-pandemic.

Growing English Language Learner Enrollment

One of the District's fastest-growing student groups is English Language Learners (ELL). In 2025–26, ELL students represent 10.9% of PPS enrollment, which is an increase from 3.0% in 2015–16.

School-Level Declines Show Growing Pressures Across the System

As districtwide enrollment declines, school-by-school data show particularly steep drops in K-12 enrollment, with 23 schools now serving fewer than 250 students and another five enrolling fewer than 300. These small enrollments weaken the District's ability to offer comprehensive programming, create staffing inefficiencies, and deepen inequities between schools with abundant opportunities and those with limited course offerings.

***Schools with Under 250 Students:**

Allegheny 6–8 (153), Arsenal 6–8 (133), Classical (237), Fulton (205) Grandview (218), Liberty (185), Lincoln (190), Linden (102), Manchester (129), Mifflin (239), Miller (167), Millions (227), Montessori (248), Phillips (244), Roosevelt (232), South Brook (192), Spring Hill (131), Sterrett (171), Sunnyside (236), Weil (168), West Liberty (177), Whittier (154), Woolslair (183)

***Schools with 250–299 Students:**

Arsenal PreK-5 (273), Beechwood (296), Minadeo (273), Schiller (250), Westwood (296)

****K–12 school-by-school enrollment does not include PreK students, as PreK is funded and budgeted separately from the state-funded K–12 system. Districtwide PreK enrollment is included in the membership totals below and is not reflected on the Enrollment Data Dashboard.***

These numbers highlight the growing challenge of maintaining equitable and efficient learning environments across a footprint built for significantly higher enrollment. To view school-by-school enrollment visit the District Data Dashboards at pghschools.org/data.



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Impact and Next Steps

The analysis warns that continued enrollment declines create challenges for maintaining robust academic and enrichment programming, particularly in small schools that struggle to support full-

time electives. Charter school tuition continues to represent a sizable and growing portion of the District’s budget.

To address these trends, the report recommends:

- Strengthening family outreach and engagement to improve retention.
- Conducting targeted recruitment in neighborhoods with low PPS capture rates.
- Surveying families who leave PPS after grades 5 and 8 to understand their decision-making.
- Evaluating building configuration and utilization to support excellence, equity, and efficiency across schools.

Members of the community can view the entire [Pittsburgh K–12 Enrollment Trends](#) report on the District’s Available Data Reports webpage.

	Official Membership 2024-25	Official Membership 2025-26	Official '25 to Official '26 Increase /Decrease	% Change
Elementary K-5	8,553	8,518	(35)	-0.41%
Middle (6-8)	4,012	3,806	(206)	-5.13%
Secondary (9-12)	5,158	5,021	(137)	-2.66%
Special*	589	592	3	0.51%
K-12 Official Membership	18,312	17,937	(375)	-2.05%
Early Childhood	1,258	1,274	16	1.27%
Total Membership	19,570	19,211	(359)	-1.83%

*Special Schools include City Connections, Online Academy, Conroy, Clayton, Bridges Academy, Pioneer, Student Achievement Center, and Children's Hospital

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