



# news

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 Launches “Paint Pittsburgh Proud,” a Citywide Arts Initiative Centered on Community, Student Voice, and Unity

PITTSBURGH, PA February 2, 2026- As **Pittsburgh Public Schools** advances long-term planning through the work outlined in its Future-Ready Facilities Plan, the District today announced the launch of **Paint Pittsburgh Proud**, a multi-year, community-centered mural initiative designed to bring students, families, educators, and neighborhoods together during a period of transition.



Superintendent Wayne N. Walters said the initiative reflects the District’s commitment to supporting school communities during a period of ongoing planning and discussion.

“As the Board continues its work and conversations about our Future-Ready Facilities Plan, it is essential that we invest in efforts that bring our communities together,” Walters said. “*Paint Pittsburgh Proud* is an intentional strategy focused on student voice, connection, and community pride. Through it we aim to help schools feel supported and united as we navigate transition thoughtfully and transparently.”

The initiative is led by nationally and internationally recognized muralist Kyle Holbrook, founder and executive artist of the **Moving Lives of Kids (MLK) Mural Project**, which has completed more than 800 murals across 49 states and 43 countries. Beginning in the 2026–27 school year, **Paint Pittsburgh Proud** will result in large-scale murals across PPS schools and surrounding communities, reflecting the stories, identities, and aspirations of the neighborhoods they serve.

“This project centers student voice and direct collaboration with educators to create permanent, high-quality public art within Pittsburgh Public Schools,” Holbrook said. “Our goal is to strengthen school culture, engagement, and community pride through work that is educational, collaborative, and lasting.”

### An Intentional Planning Year

Paint Pittsburgh Proud launches with Year One Planning and Engagement. No murals will be painted during this phase. Instead, the year is intentionally designed to prioritize listening, relationship-building, and readiness to ensure the project is deeply rooted in each school



# news

## OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

community and prepared for successful implementation. This approach ensures murals are viewed as community-owned projects, not external installations.

During Year One, the project will:

- Engage staff, students, families, and community members at each participating school
- Identify mural sites and secure facilities approvals
- Document community stories, themes, and priorities
- Establish school-based working groups and faculty liaisons
- Build a paid student apprenticeship pipeline
- Develop conceptual design directions aligned with PPS values
- Align calendars, logistics, and staffing for 2026–27
- Secure funding commitments for implementation

### Year One Planning Schools

The following schools will participate in the Year One planning and engagement phase of **Paint Pittsburgh Proud**. While some schools have been identified for potential changes under the Future-Ready planning process, this initiative is intentionally designed to bring students, families, and communities together regardless of future school configurations or outcomes. Participation in Year One reflects a commitment to listening, collaboration, and community pride, not a predetermined decision about any individual school.

- Pittsburgh King PreK–8
- Pittsburgh Westinghouse 6–12
- Pittsburgh Perry 9–12
- Pittsburgh Carrick 9–12
- Pittsburgh Millions 6–12
- Pittsburgh Arsenal (PreK–5 and 6–8)
- Pittsburgh SciTech 6–12
- Pittsburgh Sterrett 6–8
- Pittsburgh Carmalt PreK–8
- Pittsburgh Greenfield PreK–8

### Looking Ahead

With murals scheduled to begin in the 2026–27 school year, Paint Pittsburgh Proud is designed to create a lasting visual and cultural legacy across Pittsburgh Public Schools, supporting Future-Ready Facilities transitions while strengthening school culture, student engagement, and neighborhood pride.

More information about the project is available at [MLK mural.com](https://www.mlk mural.com).

###