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For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools to Transition to Asynchronous Learning April 22–24 During NFL Draft

PITTSBURGH, PA, March 17, 2026—Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) has notified staff and families today that schools will transition to **asynchronous teaching and learning from April 22–24, 2026**, in preparation for the significant increase in visitors expected across the region during the 2026 NFL Draft.

“Our priority is maintaining continuity of learning while recognizing the extraordinary circumstances the city will experience during the NFL Draft,” said Superintendent Dr. Wayne N. Walters. “Transitioning to asynchronous learning allows us to support students academically while helping families navigate the logistical challenges expected across the region.”

City officials anticipate up to 700,000 visitors traveling to Pittsburgh for the multi-day event. The shift to asynchronous learning will help reduce transportation challenges, minimize disruptions to school operations, and ensure students can continue learning safely and effectively.

During the three days of asynchronous instruction, students will complete assignments and learning activities provided by their teachers through established digital platforms and instructional materials.

The NFL Draft is occurring during the first week of the **2026 Spring PSSA testing window**. As a result, the PSSA schedule has been adjusted as follows

- PSSA Mathematics (Grades 3-8): April 20 – April 21, 2026
- PSSA English Language Arts (Grades 3-8) and Science (Grades 5 & 8): April 28 – May 4, 2026
- Make-up Testing Window: May 4 – 8, 2026

During this remote learning period, PPS remains committed to meeting the needs of all learners, including students who receive special education services. **Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 504 Plans** will continue to be implemented during this



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time, and the District will provide students' specially designed instruction (SDI) to support continued access to education. Pioneer and Conroy Education Centers will offer synchronous instruction, and related service providers will also schedule synchronous sessions with students as appropriate.

If families have questions about specific services, accommodations, or support needs, they are encouraged to contact their child's teacher or school directly so appropriate arrangements can be made.

The District will continue coordinating with city and regional partners as planning for the event progresses.

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