



PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# FUTURE-READY

FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE

Friday, July 18, 2025

## Building Pathways to Opportunity for All Students

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Magnet schools have long been a valued part of Pittsburgh Public Schools, offering students opportunities to explore their interests and talents. Many of our current magnet programs continue to foster strong cultures of thinking, belonging, and academic excellence. However, it's important to recognize that these cultures are not the result of magnet status alone. They are built by the commitment of educators, leadership, and families working together in service of students.

### Recognizing Challenges and Unintended Inequities

At the same time, feedback from across the District has raised concerns that our current magnet system can unintentionally reinforce inequities. Magnet programs were originally developed in the early 1980s as part of a proactive desegregation strategy. However, over time, and especially after a 2007 Supreme Court ruling that prohibited the use of race in student assignment, many of these programs have evolved in ways that no longer reflect their original purpose.

Some magnet programs have become less aligned with the diverse, modern needs of today's students, and many programs have become largely indistinguishable from neighborhood offerings. The primary distinction has become who attends them, as access often favors those families savvy enough to navigate the application process.

### Reimagining Access: Enrichment for Every Student

**The Future-Ready Facilities Plan reimagines our outdated system to promote greater equity and opportunity for all students.** Rather than eliminating enrichment, the plan integrates high-quality experiences, such as arts, STEM, and world languages, into the core curriculum for every elementary student, regardless of their school or zip code. This approach ensures that all children can access foundational learning experiences that spark curiosity and support long-term academic success.

The Plan maintains one PreK–5 magnet program: Pittsburgh Montessori. This school's unique instructional approach - including multi-age classrooms, self-directed learning, and Montessori-certified educators - preserves one of the few public Montessori programs in the state of Pennsylvania. Its continued inclusion reflects our commitment to honoring innovative models that offer truly unique learning experiences not easily replicated in a traditional setting.

Middle school magnet themes that are no longer meeting current educational demands, like Classical and Traditional models, will also transition under this plan into Neighborhood schools. In their place, students will benefit from expanded access to rigorous academic opportunities such as Algebra, world language instruction, and enrichment experiences that better prepare them for high school graduation and beyond. These changes are designed to support student

readiness for advanced coursework, college, and careers, while maintaining space for creativity, exploration, and personal growth.

The Plan also preserves and strengthens pathways for students who develop passions in specific areas to continue exploring them through specialized magnet programs in middle and high school.

CAPA will remain the District's only 6–12 magnet school, because of its Downtown location and our significant investment in the school's nationally recognized arts program, specialized facility, and dedicated equipment.

Other schools, such as Sci-Tech and Obama, will operate as neighborhood magnets - high-quality programs that automatically enroll students living within their attendance zones, while still offering seats through the magnet lottery to students with a demonstrated interest in STEM or World Languages. This hybrid model increases access to rigorous academic experiences without requiring all families to navigate a complex admissions process. By embedding these offerings within neighborhood schools, the District is working to break down barriers and promote inclusive excellence.

Programs such as pre-engineering, computer science, STEAM, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) will continue at the high school level, providing students with focused, high-quality preparation for college, careers, and life after graduation.

This approach honors what works within our schools while removing the structural barriers that have limited access. Strong school cultures can and must exist in every school, and we are confident they will, when every student is given the same opportunities to succeed.

## From Pockets of Excellence to Excellence Everywhere

We deeply respect and value the dedicated educators and staff who have supported magnet programs over the years. Their efforts have created vibrant learning communities that have benefited thousands of students. This plan builds on that legacy by expanding access to those kinds of experiences for *all* students.

We understand that for some families, these transitions may feel deeply personal and even difficult. It is not easy to ask for your trust, but our commitment is clear: to move from a district with pockets of excellence to one that offers *excellence everywhere*. We believe every student, in every neighborhood, deserves access to the opportunities that will help them thrive, discover their passions, and pursue a bright and promising future.

## Upcoming Opportunities to Let Your Voice be Heard

The Future-Ready Facilities Plan recommends the closures of nine (9) facilities. The School Board has voted to hold a series of special public hearings related to the proposed building closures. **Registered speakers may deliver testimony in-person at the Administration Building or virtually.** Registration will open on the District's website one week before the hearing date and close at 5:00 PM the day before the hearing at the following link.

Date	Topic	Time
Monday, July 21	Baxter School (Student Achievement Center)	5:00 PM
Tuesday, July 22	Friendship Morrow (Primary)	5:00 PM 7:00 PM
Monday, July 28	Manchester PreK-8 Schiller (Building Only)	5:00 PM 7:00 PM

Tuesday, July 29	Fulton PreK - 5 Spring Hill PreK-5	5:00 PM 7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 30	Woolslair PreK-5 Miller PreK-5	5:00 PM 7:00 PM

**Register for a Special Public Hearing**

## More Ways to Provide Input and Inform Future-Ready Planning



The Pittsburgh Public Schools Board of Directors has voted to hold a series of public hearings related to proposed building closures outlined in the Future-Ready Facilities Plan. For a schedule and more info about public hearings visit us at [pghschools.org/publichearing](http://pghschools.org/publichearing).

In addition to these hearings, the District will gather input on the current draft of the Future-Ready Facilities Plan and collect feedback to inform transition planning should the Board approve a final plan. Stakeholders are invited to share their input through community conversations, surveys, and in-person engagements across various neighborhoods—including our **PPS Community Kickbacks!**

### While you're there, you can also:



Enroll your child for the upcoming school year...



Register for the PPS summer reading program...



Learn about job opportunities with PPS...



Enjoy food, music, and good vibes with the PPS Crew...

...and much more!

Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and help shape the future of our schools!

<p><b>Jul. 24</b> 4:00-6:00 PM</p> <p><b>Pittsburgh King</b></p> <p>50 Montgomery Place Pittsburgh, PA 15212</p>	<p><b>Jul. 31</b> 4:00-6:00 PM</p> <p><b>East Hills Community Park</b></p> <p>2291 Wilner Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15221</p>	<p><b>Aug. 12</b> 4:00-6:00 PM</p> <p><b>Pittsburgh Concord</b></p> <p>2350 Brownsville Road Pittsburgh, PA 15210</p>
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For more opportunities to provide input visit [pghschools.org/futurePPS](http://pghschools.org/futurePPS)

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## Community Conversations

The Pittsburgh Public Schools Board of Directors has voted to hold a series of Public Hearings on proposed building closures outlined in the Future-Ready Facilities Plan. This marks an important next step in shaping the future of our schools.

In addition to these hearings, District Leadership will host Community Conversations to:



Share a summary of the current Future-Ready Plan



Answer your questions



Hear your ideas and feedback on the long-term vision for our District

### Schedule

Wednesday, July 9	<b>Pittsburgh Sunnyside</b> 4801 Stanton Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206	6:00 PM
Thursday, July 24	<b>Pittsburgh King</b> 50 Montgomery Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15212	6:00 PM
Monday, August 11	<b>Youth Enrichment Services</b> 6031 Broad Street, Ste #202, Pittsburgh, PA 15206	6:00 PM
Wednesday, September 10	<b>Hill House</b> 1835 Centre Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15219	6:00 PM
Thursday, September 18	<b>Pittsburgh Brookline</b> 500 Woodbourne Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15226	6:00 PM



For more information, visit [pghschools.org/futurepps](https://pghschools.org/futurepps) or contact us. 412-529-8280 | [community@pghschools.org](mailto:community@pghschools.org).

Future-Ready Facilities Plan



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