



PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# FUTURE-READY

**FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE**

**Friday, June 20, 2025**

## A Strong Foundation Worth Preserving

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At Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS), we believe in the promise of tomorrow, and that promise begins with our youngest learners. Our Early Childhood Education Programs have long been a cornerstone of our District, serving as a strong foundation for student success. More than 2,300 children, from birth to age five, learn in child-centered, developmentally appropriate classrooms led by PA-certified Early Childhood Education teachers. These nurturing environments are found in 85 classrooms across the city, supported by a proven commitment to excellence in early learning..

Despite circulating misinformation, let us be clear: Early Childhood Education is not only included in our Future-Ready Facilities Plan - it is a critical part of it.

### Preserving Access and Continuity

Currently, we operate 85 Early Childhood (preschool) and six Early Head Start (infant/toddler) classrooms in 39 buildings across the District. Most of these classrooms are housed in Early Childhood Centers, which are not slated for changes under the Future-Ready Facilities Plan. For Early Childhood classrooms located in elementary schools, those programs will move with their K–5 counterparts when applicable. This intentional approach preserves continuity of care and learning from PreK through grade 5. Importantly, our grant funding requires that we serve a set number of children each year, meaning the total number of Early Childhood classrooms will remain consistent—even if some classroom locations shift.

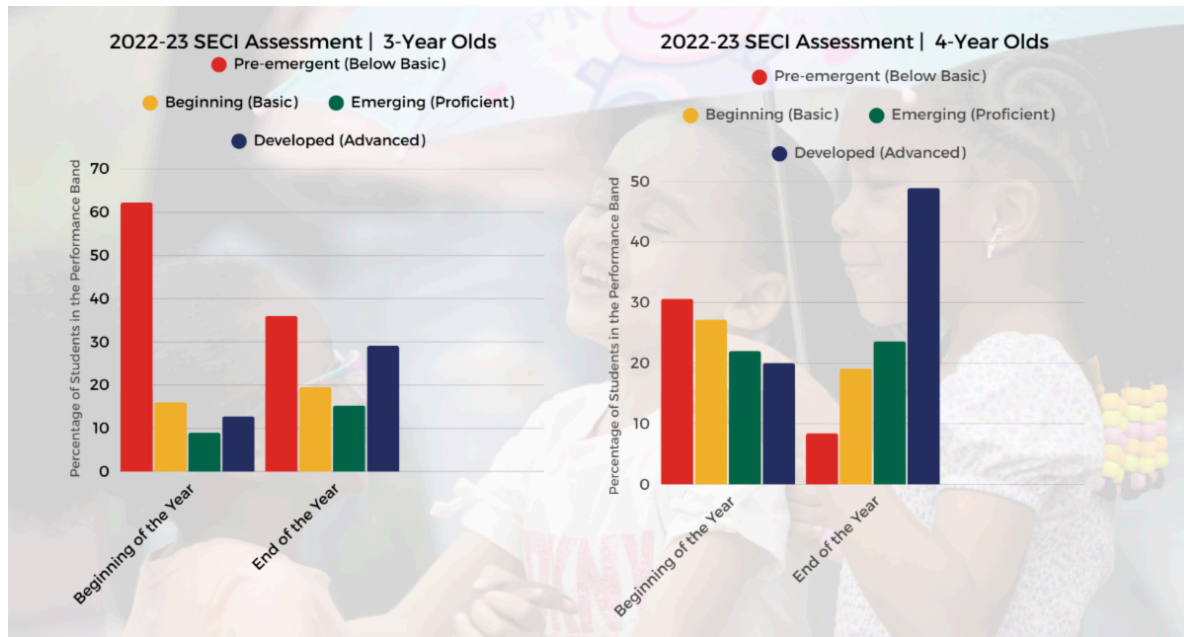
### Part of the Plan from the Start

Both our consultant, Education Resource Strategies (ERS), and the District's initial feasibility report included PreK classrooms in the analysis, as many are co-located within K–5 schools. While the primary focus of the Future-Ready Facilities Plan is on K-12 grade configurations, academic enhancements, and scheduling, PreK remains a critical part of our strategy to support early learning. PreK classrooms will continue alongside K-5 schools where applicable to ensure uninterrupted services for families. Suggestions that our youngest learners are being left behind due to proposed changes are simply not accurate.

### Proven Results Through Play-Based Learning

At PPS, investing in high-quality Pre-Kindergarten (PreK) continues to be a top priority. Our Early Childhood Education programs are grounded in research-based practices like the SECI model - Socialization, Externalization, Combination, and Internalization- which promote active, collaborative, and holistic learning. Through group play, hands-on exploration, and creative expression, students develop foundational academic and social-emotional skills that set the stage for long-term success. The 2022-23 SECI Assessment data highlights significant growth:

by the end of the school year, the percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds performing at the "Developed" (Advanced) level increased substantially, while the number of students at the "Pre-emergent" (Below Basic) level sharply declined, meaning students transition with confidence, ready for the increased expectations of Kindergarten.



Our PreK classrooms continue to operate on a developmentally appropriate schedule that reflects the unique needs of early learners. Through the new Frog Street PreK curriculum, we provide a play-based, thematic approach that integrates literacy, math, science, social studies, and the creative arts. The curriculum is designed to support all learners, including those with Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), through intentional strategies that meet a wide range of developmental needs.

## Stay Informed

At Pittsburgh Public Schools, we remain steadfast in our commitment to providing high-quality PreK programs that support the growth, development, and future success of our youngest learners. We understand that school closures and changes can be difficult for families and communities. That's why we are committed to transparency, facts, and consistent updates throughout the implementation of our Future-Ready Facilities Plan. Early Childhood Education is not an afterthought - it is foundational to our vision. We encourage families to stay informed by visiting our website, attending public meetings, and engaging with district communications. Together, we can ensure every child begins their educational journey with the strong start they deserve.



## Future-Ready Facilities Plan



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