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OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS & MEDIA CONTENT

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Tajae Oparanozie (412) 529-3621

Ahead of Father's Day Weekend, Pittsburgh Public Schools Celebrates More Than 7,400 Participants in 28th Annual Take a Father to School Day

Annual Districtwide Celebration Recognizes the Impact of Fathers, Father Figures, Mentors, and Positive Male Role Models on Student Success

PITTSBURGH, PA June 19, 2026 — Ahead of Father's Day weekend, Pittsburgh Public Schools (PPS) is celebrating the success of its 28th Annual Take a Father to School Day, which welcomed **7,427 participants** to activities across the District on Friday, May 15, 2026.

Held annually, Take a Father to School Day is one of the District's signature family and community engagement initiatives. The event invites fathers, grandfathers, uncles, brothers, mentors, coaches, community leaders, and other positive male role models into PPS schools to strengthen connections with students, support school communities, and reinforce the important role engaged adults play in student success.

"As we celebrate Father's Day weekend, Pittsburgh Public Schools is proud to recognize the fathers, father figures, mentors, and positive male role models who continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students," said Superintendent Wayne N. Walters, Ed.D. "Take a Father to School Day is more than a single event. It reflects the love, leadership, presence, and partnership that help our young people succeed."

This year's theme, "**N.F.L. — Needs for Learning: Fathers Scoring Big for Student Success,**" highlighted the powerful connection between family engagement, student confidence, school pride, and academic achievement. Across the District, schools hosted a wide range of activities designed to bring families together and celebrate the men who show up for students every day.

Events included the Daddy Dance at Pittsburgh Langley, the Men's and Family Health Fair at Pittsburgh Arsenal, a comedy event at Pittsburgh Phillips, classroom visits, student engagement activities, family celebrations, and the 4th Annual Dads vs. Students All-Star Basketball Game at Pittsburgh Perry.

The continued growth and enthusiasm surrounding Take a Father to School Day reflect the deep value PPS families and school communities place on meaningful male involvement. Each year, men from across the City of Pittsburgh look forward to participating in the celebration, demonstrating their commitment to students, schools, and community.



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This year's participation total of 7,427 underscores the significance of the initiative and its continued role in building positive school climates, strengthening family-school partnerships, and celebrating the men who help guide, support, and inspire PPS students.

"Seeing thousands of fathers and father figures show up across our schools is truly inspiring," said Board Director Dwayne Barker, a longtime member of the Take a Father to School Day Committee. "Our students benefit when they see the men in their lives engaged, present, and connected to their education. This event continues to show what is possible when families, schools, and communities come together."

As the country prepares to celebrate Father's Day weekend, the District extends its appreciation to every father, grandfather, uncle, mentor, coach, community partner, and male role model who participated in this year's celebration and continues to support students throughout the year.

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