

## Student Envoy Overview

The Student Envoy Project is Pittsburgh Public Schools' student leadership program focused on efficacy. The Student Envoy Project focuses on mobilizing students directly; engaging them as active and essential partners in improving their academic performance and both school and classroom culture. In participating schools, this program builds a group of student leaders called Student Envoys who are trained and provided with support to lead a cultural change with their peers throughout the building.

Students are nominated by school staff based on both traditional and non-traditional leadership abilities, representation of strong character, and a willingness to positively impact classroom and school-wide culture. Once nominated, all students are expected to participate in a district-wide Student Envoy Camp that introduces these emerging leaders to the program, the 5 Secrets and their key roles in this position. Following camp, Student Envoys are expected to fulfill the following roles within their building:

- **Role Models:** Students use and demonstrate Efficacy Secrets in their daily lives, setting a positive example.
- **Vectors:** Students effectively transmit Efficacy Secrets to their peers, spreading them so they "go viral."
- **Leaders:** Students listen to their peers' concerns, identify, and address issues in their schools by enhancing already established programs and when needed creating new projects to direct positive change.

To grow in their own practice of efficacy, Student Envoys meet with dedicated and trained educator leaders in the building known as Teacher Envoys. Student Envoys meet as a group with their school's Teacher Envoy(s) for approximately 30 minutes each week to plan projects specific to their school's needs and context to spread the Secrets and apply them in creative ways to support positive change within their building. In addition to school-based support for Student Envoys, all participating students are invited to attend a district-wide mid-year Summit and an End of Year Celebration. Collaborations with other Student Envoy schools, connections to community-based organizations, and project execution support are all supports that can be provided as needed and requested by participating schools to enhance the experience and effectiveness of the Student Envoys.

Teacher Envoys and Administrators are provided with additional training and regular school visits to assist with implementation. Because each school's group of Student Envoys is working towards positive change in their own unique school setting, the Student Envoy Project can and should look different in each building. The Student Envoy Project management team is able to work with individual schools to set school-specific project goals, determine ideal ways to provide student voice and support to pre-existing school culture initiatives, and work through necessary logistics to manage the Student Envoy Project in a way strengthens the already established school culture of a given building.

During the 2022-2023 school year nearly 600 third through twelfth grade students from Pittsburgh Allegheny 6-8, Arlington, Arsenal K-5, Arsenal 6-8, Beechwood, Brookline, Carmalt, Classical Academy, Colfax, Concord, Faison, Fulton, Grandview, Greenfield, King, Lincoln, Mifflin, Miller, Millions, Montessori, Oliver Citywide Academy, Roosevelt, Schiller, South Brook, Sterrett, Sunnyside, Westinghouse, Westwood, Whittier, and Woolslair participated in the program.

*Schools interested in receiving additional information on implementation of The Student Envoy Project are encouraged to contact Annie Cillo at [acillo1@pqhschools.org](mailto:acillo1@pqhschools.org) or 412-529-3638.*