Freedom School

Presenters: Kira Henderson
Russell Patterson, PhD.
• History of Freedom School
• Why Freedom School?
• Structure of Freedom School
• Outcomes

Our Agenda
• Birthed out of the Mississippi Freedom Summer Project of 1964 were Freedom Schools

• A summer program to provide Black children and teenagers rich reading instruction and to motivate young people to be engaged in their communities and to help them identify problems and design solutions to local problems
The Freedom School movement was reborn under the leadership of Marian Wright Edelman. Under her leadership, the first two sites opened their doors in 1995. In Pittsburgh, we have had Freedom Schools since 2002. 2017 was the first year that we were in two communities.
Why Freedom School?

- Decrease summer learning loss
- Social action component
- Servant Leaders (college students from the community)
- Culturally relevant literature
• Pittsburgh Weil
  • Servant Leaders
  • Afternoon service providers
• Pittsburgh Faison
  • Servant Leaders
  • Extended School Year (ESY) component
  • Afternoon service providers
Behavioral improvement
Leadership skills development
Student council
Love for reading
Wants to incorporate cheers and chants into morning meeting
Parents feel he is apart of the school community

Freedom School Outcomes: JB’s story
The change in 4-Sight scores of incoming 3rd and 4th graders after implementation of Freedom Schools
- 3rd grade reading: Decreased below basic students by 16%
- 3rd grade math: Decreased below basic students by 21%
- 4th grade reading: Decreased below basic students by 20%
- 4th grade math: Decreased below basic students by 39%