



news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ebony Pugh (412)475-1523

Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 to Continue Remote Learning Through Last Day of School

PITTSBURGH, PA, June 2, 2023 – Due to no air conditioning, limited ventilation, and supply chain issues to support a timely repair, students and teachers at Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 and the Peabody Early Childhood Center will continue synchronous remote teaching and learning through the end of the school year. Because most classrooms do not have windows or windows that can be opened, the proper flow of cool, fresh air throughout the building is limited. Since the air conditioning system is still out of service and cannot be repaired due to supply chain issues, students and staff will continue remote synchronous teaching and learning until the last day of school for students, June 14. Teachers will reach out to students about finals and end-of-year activities. SAT testing scheduled to take place at the school tomorrow is canceled. Registered students will receive an email from the College Board with further details.

The District's facility team has been closely monitoring the situation. It has initiated discussions with relevant authorities and experts to address this issue, focusing on identifying and implementing immediate short-term solutions and exploring long-term measures to improve the overall ventilation system and restore the facility's air conditioning. Current steps underway to mitigate the impact of poor ventilation:

- **Increased Fresh Air Intake:** The District's facilities team is maximizing the fresh air intake to the extent possible within the current system's capabilities. This will help in improving air circulation and quality within the school.
- **Regular Maintenance and Filter Replacement:** The District's maintenance team works diligently to ensure a well-maintained ventilation system, which includes regular cleaning, inspection, and filter replacement to minimize any potential issues.
- **Frequent Monitoring and Evaluation:** The District has implemented a monitoring system to regularly assess the air quality in different areas of the school to help identify any areas of concern and take immediate action accordingly.
- **Classroom Measures:** Teachers have been advised to keep windows and doors open whenever feasible to encourage natural airflow. Additionally, portable air purifiers have been installed in classrooms to enhance air quality.

This month, the Board will be asked to approve the purchase of a replacement chiller for the facility with an estimated cost of \$1.4 million. The chiller replacement project is expected to be completed by Spring 2024. Over the summer the District's facilities team will implement several short-term fixes to support air flow in the building and its reopening for the 2023-2024 school year. While the District has utilized window units in offices and to support ADA needs, the use of window or portable units poses a risk to the electrical capacity of District buildings and will not meet building code standards for the ventilation of school buildings.