



# news

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Ebony Pugh (412) 475-1523

## **Superintendent Wayne Walters Seeks Public Input to Shape Design Principles for Pittsburgh Public Schools**

PITTSBURGH, May 3, 2023 – Superintendent Wayne N. Walters seeks public input on Design Principles for the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Design Principles are value statements that can help the community frame what matters and inform the tough decisions the District must make to strategically allocate its resources to ensure equity, excellence, and efficiency. Following a review of draft design principles with the Board at its March 7 Education Committee Meeting, the Superintendent now seeks input from the entire Pittsburgh Public Schools community via the [Design Principles Survey](https://www.pghschools.org/designprinciples) and nine audience-specific virtual and in-person focus groups. ([www.pghschools.org/designprinciples](https://www.pghschools.org/designprinciples))

“It is time that the Pittsburgh community get on the same page about what we believe the Pittsburgh Public Schools should prioritize in our service delivery to students and families,” said Superintendent Wayne N. Walters. “One of my five priority goals calls for the strategic allocation of resources to ensure equity, excellence, and efficiency. By agreeing on what we want for our students and schools, we can set a foundation for the open and transparent dialogue we must have with all stakeholders about the difficult decisions ahead.”

In collaboration with the Board of Directors, Dr. Walters identified [five priority goals](#) to inform a strategic planning process that will ultimately result in a five-year strategic plan.

**Goal 1:** Invest in culturally responsive, evidence-based training, tools, and instructional practices.

**Goal 2:** Construct safety, health, and wellness protocols.

**Goal 3:** Expand stakeholder communication and partnerships.

**Goal 4:** Design effective organizational systems; and

**Goal 5:** Strategically allocate resources to ensure equity, excellence, and efficiency.

### **Finding Agreement Through the Use of Design Principles**

Design Principles can serve as a powerful tool to help the District reach Priority Goal 5. The Superintendent’s leadership team drafted Design Principles in four areas to frame potential decisions based on best practices for input from all stakeholders.

- Academics
- Programs and Services
- People and Staff, and
- Structural and Financial

Dr. Walters shares more about design principles in his latest edition of [Why Behind the What](#). The video, draft design principles, informational resources related to the five priority goals, the Design Principles Survey, and a schedule of focus groups can be found on the District’s website at [pghschools.org/designprinciples](https://www.pghschools.org/designprinciples). The survey closes Thursday, May 25.