October 8, 2014

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In Pittsburgh and nationally, there is a great focus on improving the quality of teaching and ensuring students have the skills they need to receive a postsecondary education. To advance these efforts in Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Public Schools is entering the fifth year of implementation of our Empowering Effective Teachers plan.

Because of our Empowering Effective Teachers work, we are now in a great place to better understand the differences in teacher effectiveness. We are committed to supporting and growing our teachers to ensure all of our students are on course to take full advantage of The Pittsburgh Promise® scholarship. We are using the information we have gathered on teacher effectiveness to drive recruitment, professional growth, evaluation, promotion, recognition, retention, and compensation. To learn more about our work visit: www.pps.k12.pa.us/EET.

Important Information about Teacher & Paraprofessional Qualifications

Through the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), parents have the right to request information about the qualifications of the teachers and paraprofessionals who instruct students. Under the NCLB guidelines, parents may request the following information about their children’s teachers and paraprofessionals:

1. Whether the teacher has been licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to provide instruction for the grades and subjects taught.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional certification.
3. The college major and any other advanced degrees or certifications the teacher holds.
4. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

To request this information, please submit a written request to: Mr. Brian Glickman, Director of Talent Management, Pittsburgh Public Schools, 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213. Please include your child’s name, school and homeroom as well as a telephone number where you may be reached between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also place your request by contacting the Parent Hotline at 412-529-HELP (4359).

At Pittsburgh Public Schools, our goal is to ensure that every student is Promise-Ready and able to receive a scholarship from The Pittsburgh Promise®. We look forward to working together to create a culture of excellence where every child is prepared to succeed in the classroom and in all aspects of life.

If you have questions about the information in this letter, please contact Mr. Glickman’s office at 412-529-3659.

Sincerely,

Linda S. Lane
Superintendent of Schools