

Pittsburgh Allderdice High School

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2023-24 Allderdice Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Revised February 13, 2024

The School District of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Allderdice High School recognize that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family and agrees to effectively educate all students. The school, parent/guardian, and community must work together as knowledgeable partners in meeting this responsibility.

Considering the identified needs of our students, Pittsburgh Allderdice High School, in conjunction with parents, has developed a Parent and Family Engagement Policy that will support the participation of families in a variety of ways. Each year, a sub-group of parents, faculty, and staff members will be invited to review and revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Home-School Compact. During the Parent School Community Council (PSCC) meeting following this review session, the PSCC will review and approve the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Home-School Compact. The compact is developed to outline how parents/guardians, students, and teachers will work together to support our students. The policy and compact will be shared with Allderdice families and discussed during the PSCC meeting as well as the annual review session previously mentioned. It will also be available upon request at Welcome Back Night, parent-teacher conferences, PSCC meetings, and various other activities where families will be present.

It is important that our school will provide assistance to parents and family members in understanding the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments. These topics are covered in our first meeting of the year when we also discuss Title I. We also provide information on our curriculum and how to monitor your child's progress in our February meeting on course offerings at Allderdice.

Parent/guardian and family engagement is an ongoing process that assists families in meeting basic obligations as their children's first educators. Key components of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy include:

- **Open Door Policy** – Pittsburgh Allderdice's open door policy promotes two-way communications between school and home. It also supports family participation in the shared decision making at all grade levels concerning the education of children. Our school will provide, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to gather feedback on our to best support our students and how to put these plans in action.
- **Welcome Back to School Night**- At the beginning of the school year, Pittsburgh Allderdice will host a Welcome Back to School night. All parents/guardians will have an opportunity to meet teachers, counselors, social workers and other relevant staff. Families will also learn about clubs and activities that take place at the school. In addition, families will become familiar with Pittsburgh Allderdice, district policies, and school procedures and programs. At this meeting, parents/guardians will be encouraged to

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Parent Hotline: 412-529-HELP

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participate in the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) and the Parent School Community Council (PSCC). The school's leadership team will also be on hand to answer questions from families.

- **Professional Learning with Staff Regrading Parent and Family Engagement** – Professional Learning will be held with staff each year that is focused on educating teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and family members and the school. Parent feedback will be used to help develop this professional learning.
- **Consistent School Communication** – The weekly Allderdice Parent Newsletter is the best way for families to stay connected to the school and stay informed on school events, parent meetings and other activities. Talking Points will also be used to communicate with families. Talking Points information and other relevant school documents are translated for families in our community.
- **Training Provided for Parents to Support Our Students** – Through our weekly newsletter and our PSCC meetings, we will provide information to families so that they can help support our students' achievement. Examples of this include sending information related to technology or our PSCC meeting related to Tutor.com.
- **The Pittsburgh Promise** enables eligible Pittsburgh Public School graduates to be awarded a scholarship of up to \$5,000 per year from the Pittsburgh Promise.
- **The Parent School Community Council (PSCC)** is an advisory council for the administration made up of parents, community members, and staff. Monthly PSCC meetings will generally be held on the second Thursday of each month. These meetings will be held virtually on Microsoft Teams, beginning around 6:30 pm. Responsibilities of the PSCC include, but are not limited to, assisting with the development of the School Improvement Plan, promoting and facilitating partnerships with local community agencies and businesses to help foster the notion that every child can learn, participating in discussions about academic issues, and informing the school of community issues that might have an impact on student achievement.
 - The annual Title I meeting will take place during the first PSCC meeting. Parents will be given an overview of the Title I Program and will be informed of the Title I requirements and their rights to be engaged. Parents will also be given information regarding the process of filing complaints.

- Information regarding the curriculum will be provided for parent/guardian review. This information will be kept on file at the school for PSCC/Title I representative review. Additionally, families will be encouraged to attend parent trainings during the regularly scheduled PSCC meetings. These sessions will be designed to clarify understanding of the school's curriculum, provide strategies to help families support their child's achievement, and keep families updated on the progress of the Title I Program. All meeting records and school activities will be documented for future reference and review. Invitations to these meetings and all other parent and family engagement opportunities will be sent to families via email and automated phone calls. In addition, information regarding family and community engagement as well as school and district information will be made available via the Pittsburgh Allderdice website.
 - PSCC meeting dates and topics for the 2023-24 school year are listed below:
 - Thursday, September 14th – Annual Title I Meeting* (see note below)
 - Thursday, October 19th – College Application Process
 - Thursday, November 9th – Tutor.com
 - Thursday, December 14th – Multicultural Dinner and Winter Concert
 - Thursday, January 18th – Mental Health Supports at Allderdice
 - Thursday, February 8th – Course Offerings at Allderdice
 - Thursday, March 14th – Clubs/Activities at Dice – Supporting Inclusiveness
 - Thursday, April 11th – TBD*
 - Thursday, May 9th – Student Showcase from 23-24
- *Possible topics – PBIS, Restorative Practices, Social Media Awareness

Parents will be able to provide input regarding our Title I program during this annual meeting. Additionally dates/times will be provided during this meeting for families to take part in the planning and review of the school's Parent and Family Engagement policy and the Parent-School Compact

While these meetings are generally held in the evening on Microsoft teams, additional meetings, such as the review meetings for the Parent and Family Engagement policy and the Parent-School Compact, will be held during the school day.

- **Parent Volunteers** – Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the areas of PSCC involvement, assisting in the Writing Center, chaperoning field trips, assisting with school-based events, and by serving as Parent Advisory Council representatives. The district-wide Parent Advisory Council is the District's central mechanism for ensuring that parents are well-informed about Pittsburgh Public Schools related matters.

These parents can help develop District-level programming and policy and share information with District staff. This group gives parents the opportunity to assume leadership roles by serving as liaisons between parents at their school and District officials. The Council is comprised of one to four parent or family representatives from each school, elected on a voluntary basis. Members meet with Office of the Superintendent staff and/or other District leadership monthly. More information can be found here: <https://www.pghschools.org/parent-advisory-council>

- Parents and community members wishing to volunteer must apply for and present ACT 33 and 34 Clearances and the FBI Criminal History Report. More information can be found here: [Get Involved / Volunteering \(pghschools.org\)](#)