

NEWS



Pittsburgh
Public Schools



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For Immediate Release

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Board Approves School Reconfiguration Plan and New Teacher Academy Sites

PITTSBURGH, PA, August 25, 2010 – At its Legislative Session this evening, the Board approved the next phase of the District’s *Excel.9-12, The Plan for High School Excellence* school reconfiguration plan proposed by Superintendent Mark Roosevelt. Additionally, the Board approved the District’s Teacher Academy sites at Pittsburgh Brashear 9-12 and Pittsburgh King PreK-8 for the 2011-12 school year.

“Implementation of the District’s *Excel.9-12* high school reform plan will enable us to transform some of our most underperforming schools into schools that advance student achievement while helping us to make the most efficient use of our resources. We greatly appreciate that the Pittsburgh community was actively involved in developing this plan over the past three years,” said Superintendent Mark Roosevelt.

The Board approved the following actions:

School	Board Action	Implementation Date
Pittsburgh Peabody	Close	June 30, 2011
Pittsburgh Obama 6-12	Relocate to Peabody facility	2012-13 School Year
Pittsburgh Westinghouse	Open two 6-12 single gender academies in the facility	2011-12 School Year
Pittsburgh Faison K-8	Reconfigure as K-5; 6-8 grade students attend Pittsburgh Westinghouse	2011-12 School Year
Pittsburgh Lincoln K-8	Reconfigure as K-5; 6-8 grade students attend Pittsburgh Westinghouse	2011-12 School Year
Pittsburgh Brashear	Reconfigure as 9-12 Teacher Academy	2011-12 School Year
Pittsburgh King K-8	Reconfigure as K-8 Teacher Academy	2011-12 School Year
Pittsburgh Oliver	Reconfigure as Early College Model program	2011-12 School Year
Homewood Early Childhood Center	Move to Crescent facility	2011-12 School Year

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Introduced in 2006, *Excel.9-12* is a five-year roadmap for improving the academic performance of all high school students in the Pittsburgh Public Schools and achieving *Excellence for All*. Over the past three years, many aspects of the *Excel.9-12* plan have been launched including:

- Adoption by the Board in May, 2010 of a new comprehensive plan for Career and Technical Education (CTE);
- Opening of new secondary learning options: Pittsburgh Millions 6-12 in 2008-09, Pittsburgh Obama 6-12 in 2008-09, Pittsburgh CAPA 6-12 in 2009-10 and Pittsburgh Science and Technology Academy 6-12 in 2009-10; and
- Development of the 9th *Grade Nation* program designed to smooth the transition from 8th grade to high school.

The Teacher Academy is a cornerstone of the District and Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT) **Empowering Effective Teachers** plan, recently funded with a \$40 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Teacher Academy will ensure that all new District teachers are prepared to meet the diverse needs of Pittsburgh's students, and that experienced teachers will have the opportunity to continuously improve their practice. At The Teacher Academy, teams of new and experienced teachers will work side-by-side to bring enthusiasm, energy and high expectations to each child's classroom.

"The Teacher Academy will enable us to develop a culture of teaching excellence that will maximize student achievement and get kids Promise-Ready," said Roosevelt.

District Aligned to Compete for Federal and State Funding

The U.S. Department of Education has changed the landscape for districts to receive federal funding. In order to compete for education funding at the national and state levels, school districts are required to adopt models of reform that will significantly change the way persistently low-performing schools operate. Implementation of the next phase of the *Excel.9-12* school reconfiguration plan and The Teacher Academy directly align Pittsburgh Public Schools with the U.S. Department of Education's requirements for action to be eligible for federal and state allocations.

Additionally, the District will launch the Promise Readiness Corps in 2010-11. The Promise Readiness Corps, another initiative of the **Empowering Effective Teachers** work, is a team of effective teachers collectively responsible for supporting students as they transition into high school to ensure they arrive at 11th grade Promise-Ready. The work of the Promise Readiness Corps will begin in eight District high schools: Pittsburgh Allderdice, Pittsburgh Brashear, Pittsburgh Carrick, Pittsburgh Langley, Pittsburgh Oliver, Pittsburgh Peabody, Pittsburgh Perry and Pittsburgh Westinghouse. Combined with the *Excel.9-12* plan and The Teacher Academy, the Promise Readiness Corps will significantly enhance the District's competitiveness for federal funding.

The District has applied for significant federal and state funding to support implementation of the *Excel.9-12* school reconfiguration plan and the **Empowering Pittsburgh Teachers** work. The District submitted a federal application for \$39.5 million from the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) and a state application of \$29.5 million in School Improvement Grant (SIG) funding.

More Information Available

To learn more about the District's *Excel.9-12* plan for school reconfiguration, please visit the District's website at www.pps.k12.pa.us and click the School Reconfigurations button on the homepage. To learn more about the **Empowering Effective Teachers** plan, The Teacher Academy or the Promise-Readiness Corps please click the PPS & PFT button on the District's home page or visit www.empoweringpittsburghteachers.net.

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