



**PITTSBURGH
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**
COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING
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For Immediate Release

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Pittsburgh Public Schools Provides Board Overview of 2007-08 District Improvement Plan

PITTSBURGH, November 7, 2007 –Pittsburgh Public Schools provided its Board of Directors an overview of the District Improvement Plan at tonight’s Education Committee Meeting. The District, which is currently in Corrective Action II, must submit an Improvement Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education by November 16, 2007. The State-required plan must include goals and strategies aimed at improving the academic achievement of students, as well as align the District’s priorities with its School Improvement Plans. The Board will vote on the District Improvement Plan at a Special Legislative session scheduled for November 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Committee Room located at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue in Oakland.

For 2007, the District met 78 of 96 targets (81%) as compared with 65 of 82 (79%) in 2006 and 50 of 69 (72%) in 2005. None of the District’s K-5, K-8 or Middle schools received an AYP status lower than Warning. The District met its targets for two of the three standards required by the State – high school graduation and test participation. The District showed continued growth on the third standard – academic performance, but did not meet its overall academic performance targets for reading and mathematics. The District must meet targets in all three standards in order to make AYP. Although the District is making progress in its results related to AYP, the District moves into Corrective Action II Status because it did not meet all of its AYP targets for a fifth consecutive year among all its subgroups for both reading and mathematics.

“While I am encouraged by the progress we have made, we must further use the data to differentiate the instruction that takes place in our classrooms so that we are meeting the needs of all of our students while at the same time closing the achievement disparity that exists between our African American and White students,” said Superintendent Mark Roosevelt. “We also must continue to cultivate effective school leadership.”

Corrective Action II Status

The State must take at least one of several predefined corrective actions to assist districts that have not made AYP after four consecutive years. This could include deferring programmatic funds or reducing administrative funds, implementing new curriculum, replacing staff, appointing a trustee to administer the district in place of the superintendent and school board, establishing alternative arrangements for supervision of certain schools, and abolishing or restructuring the district.

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District’s Improvement Plan

The District is already taking the following action steps which are aligned with the predefined corrective actions the State could impose on a district in Corrective Action II.

Corrective Action State Could Impose	District Action
Implement a new curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New core curriculum in 6-12 and new reading program in K-5 • Comprehensive professional development calendar
Replace the local educational agency personnel who are relevant to the failure to make AYP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rigorously evaluate all Principals • Pittsburgh Urban Leadership System for Excellence
Abolish or restructure the Local Education Agency (School District)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Reform • Accelerated Learning Academies

Additionally, the District Improvement Plan outlines strategies for using school data to inform instruction, creating culturally relevant curriculum, increasing professional development for teachers and principals, and the use of research-proven techniques to increase achievement.

The Public Can Obtain a Copy of the Improvement Plan

The plan can be accessed online at www.pps.k12.pa.us.

In addition, the public can obtain a copy of the plan by calling the **Parent Hotline at 412-622-7920**, or visiting Room 204 at Pittsburgh Board of Education, 341 South Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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