

## Community Partners

- Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board
- City of Pittsburgh/Pittsburgh Partnership
- University of Pittsburgh
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Allegheny General Hospital
- UPMC
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- National Organization on Disability
- Local Businesses & Agencies

## Participating Schools

Pittsburgh Alderdice High School  
Pittsburgh Brashear High School  
Pittsburgh Carrick High School  
Pittsburgh Perry High School  
Pittsburgh Oliver City Wide Academy  
Pittsburgh Univ. Prep High School  
Pittsburgh Westinghouse High School

# START ON SUCCESS

Please visit our Website at:  
<http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/page/947>

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 Pittsburgh Public Schools | EXCELLENCE FOR ALL  
*The Pathway to the Promise.™*

# START ON SUCCESS

## Pittsburgh Public Schools

A transition program that provides a coordinated, progressive series of activities and experiences over three years of high school to prepare youth with learning disabilities for successful employment or post-secondary education or training.

Dr. Linda Lane  
Superintendent of Schools

Donna Westbrooks-Martin  
Executive Director,  
Program for Students with Exceptionalities

## Learning, Connecting, Working, Leading

### Guiding Principles

- Provide skills & exposure to the workplace
- Real work for real pay
- Prepare students with learning disabilities for competitive employment upon graduation
- Provide linkage between school and the workplace
- Transition curriculum focused on preparing students for further education and employment
- Curriculum infuses responsibility, communication skills, flexibility, self-monitoring, problem solving skills, time management skills, team work skills, and career development.
- Students learn self-advocacy and self-determination skills
- Student driven
- Eligibility vs. Entitlement
- Link assessment, instruction and community activities

### SOS Program Design

#### 9th Grade:

##### **Semester 2**

- Students are selected

#### 10th Grade:

- Daily Career Development Class
- Career Exploration Activities
- Service Learning Project

#### 11th Grade:

- Daily Career Development Class
- Community Mentorship
  - ◇ 8 Weeks, 3 hours/day, 1 day/week
- Carnegie Mellon University - Decision Makers Class

#### 12th Grade:

- Daily Career Development Class
- Paid internship, 2 hours/day, 5 days/week



### Benefit to Students

- Real pay for real work
- Independent travel
- Peer mentoring
- Strong relationships with role models
- Service to community
- Leadership opportunities
- Business community mentor
- Job readiness and job maintenance skills
- Increased self-awareness
- Resume and portfolio development