



NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

For Immediate Release

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District Continues to Seek Solutions to Transportation Challenge District Launches New Summer B.O.O.S.T. Program to Combat COVID Slide *PPS Prepares for In-Person Events to Celebrate the Class of 2021*

PITTSBURGH April 16, 2021 – Facing a daily transportation seat gap of 1,300 when students in support categories 1 and 2 return for in-person instruction on May 3, District officials shared potential solutions at a press briefing this afternoon. Since the District’s announcement of the seat gap due to a growing driver shortage and COVID-19 restrictions, 100 seats have been released by families. Today, the District announced the availability of Port Authority ConnectIX tickets for families of eligible students scheduled to return May 3. District officials additionally shared details about a new summer program for students in grades K-11 and plans to celebrate the Class of 2021.

“We are grateful to those families who have shared their willingness to release their seat to free up space for students who need it,” said Director of Pupil Transportation Megan Patton. “Following a careful review of available drivers and routes, we have been able to eliminate the seat gap for students at 18 schools based on current enrollment for in-person instruction on May 3. Even still, a daily gap of 1,300 seats, per cohort, remains that requires us to continue to explore alternatives for getting students to school.”

Families who are able to transport their student to and from school are asked to notify the District via Let’s Talk. In addition, Port Authority ConnectIX tickets will be available to families who need them. Families are encouraged to contact Let’s Talk at www.pghschools.org/Letstalk or at 412-529-HELP if they are able to use ConnectIX for school transportation.

Based on current enrollment for in-person instruction, District transportation staff have eliminated the seat gap at 18 schools: Pittsburgh Brashear, Brookline, Concord, Faison, Grandview, Greenfield, Liberty, Lincoln, Manchester, Mifflin, Miller, Minadeo, Morrow, South Brook, Sunnyside, Weil, West Liberty and Whittier. Transportation information for students at these schools will be mailed next week.

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District Launches New Summer B.O.O.S.T. Program for Grades K-11

In preparation for summer, the District launched a brand-new summer learning program, Summer B.O.O.S.T. The no-cost, summer learning program is designed to support students in grades K-11 by building positive relationships and creating opportunities for exploration that put students on track for their future academic success in a thriving and fun environment. B.O.O.S.T. stands for Building Positive Relationships, Opportunities for Exploration, On Track for Your Future, Supporting Academic Success, and Thriving in a Fun Environment.

“Summer learning opportunities like Summer B.O.O.S.T., are important in the fight against summer learning loss, compounded by a year of remote instruction due to the pandemic,” said Melanie Claxton, Coordinator Out-of-School time. “PPS students in all grade levels will have access to a high-quality summer learning experience with supports in place to network, explore, and thrive.”

The 2021 Summer B.O.O.S.T. program will run June 22 - August 4, Monday – Thursday at sites across the city.

- K-4 Sites: Carmalt, Faison, Langley, Minadeo
- K-7 Site: King
- 5-7 Sites: Classical, Sci-Tech, South Hills
- 8-11 Sites: Brashear, CAPA, Carrick, Obama

Applications are available at www.pghschools.org/summerboost. This application deadline is by 5:00 PM on Friday, May 7, 2021.

PPS Prepares for In-Person Events to Celebrate the Class of 2021

Pittsburgh Public Schools is preparing for in-person events to celebrate the Class of 2021, including commencement ceremonies and senior celebrations. The dates for this year’s commencement ceremonies were shared as part of today’s briefing.

“The Class of 2021 deserves to be recognized and honored for their steadfast commitment and perseverance to continue learning remotely during a global pandemic. This talented group of students have endured a not-so-typical senior year, missing out on traditional activities such as homecoming, athletic games, and social events. It’s only right that we celebrate this class with

an in-person graduation,” said Dr. Nina Sacco, Assistant Superintendent Office of School Performance.

In addition to holding in-person commencement ceremonies, high school principals are working with senior class advisors to plan Senior Celebration Events, in lieu of the traditional prom. Events will be open to seniors only and will include opportunities for seniors to celebrate their accomplishments, receive awards, participate in socially distanced activities, view videos containing photos of their high school years, and eat individually packaged meals. All events will adhere to CDC guidelines for social distancing and masking. A complete schedule of commencement dates can be found below.

School	Commencements Dates		Commencements Times (1 Hour long/1.5 Hours between each ceremony)	Location
Conroy	Friday	June 4	9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Conroy
Pioneer	Thursday	June 10	12:00 PM- 1:00 PM	Pioneer
Online Academy	Friday	June 11	1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Central Administration Building, 341 S Bellefield Ave
Brashear	Saturday	June 12	9:30 AM-10:30 AM	Peterson Events Center
Carrick	Saturday	June 12	12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Peterson Events Center
Westinghouse	Saturday	June 12	2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Peterson Events Center

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Perry	Saturday	June 12	5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Peterson Events Center
UPREP	Saturday	June 12	7:30 PM-8:30 PM	Peterson Events Center
Allderdice	Sunday	June 13	12:00 PM-1:00 PM	Peterson Events Center
Obama	Sunday	June 13	3:00 PM-4:00 PM	Peterson Events Center
CAPA	Sunday	June 13	5:00 PM-6:00 PM	Peterson Events Center
Sci-Tech	Sunday	June 13	7:00 PM-8:00 PM	Peterson Events Center

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