

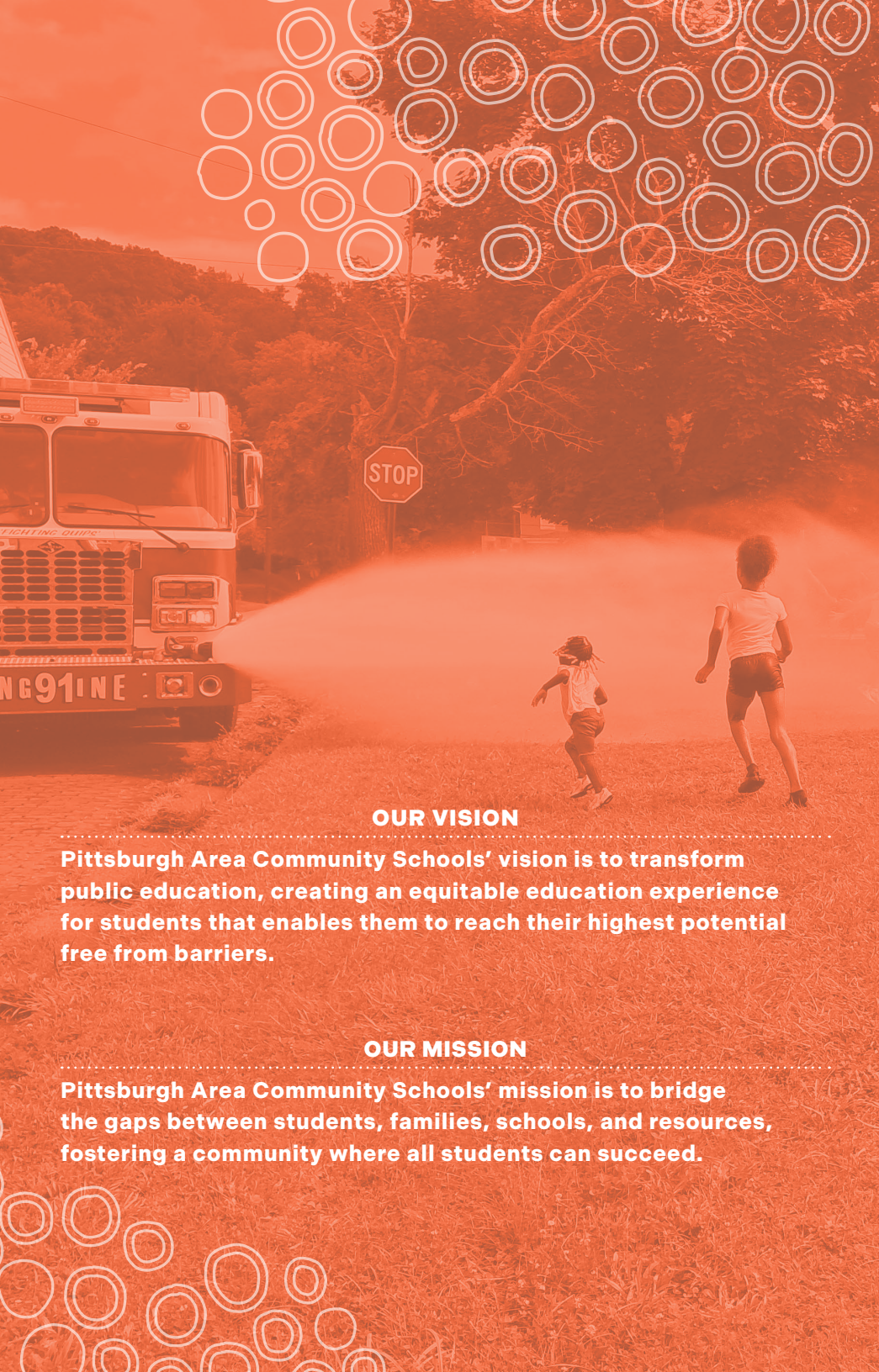


Pittsburgh Area
Community Schools



2025

Impact Report



OUR VISION

Pittsburgh Area Community Schools' vision is to transform public education, creating an equitable education experience for students that enables them to reach their highest potential free from barriers.

OUR MISSION

Pittsburgh Area Community Schools' mission is to bridge the gaps between students, families, schools, and resources, fostering a community where all students can succeed.

Letter from Our Executive Director



Over the past several years, Pittsburgh Area Community Schools has experienced extraordinary growth. Our network has expanded across districts and counties, our staff has grown, and the number of students and families we serve has increased dramatically. What began as a small effort in a handful of schools has become a regional network supporting thousands of students every year.

But this year, the work we have been building began to take real shape.

Across our partner districts, educators, families, students, and community partners are now working side by side through Site Teams to name challenges and design solutions rooted in the lived experience of each school community. These collaborations are helping transform schools into places where families feel genuinely welcomed, students feel supported, and community partners play an active role—not just around schools, but within them.

As our network has matured, the Community School strategy is operating at full strength across our schools. The systems and partnerships we spent years building are now showing up where it matters most: in day-to-day practice and measurable impact. Throughout 2024–25, that work included:

- **A network-wide Attendance Challenge**, where schools developed creative strategies—from homeroom competitions and raffles to targeted outreach with families—to help students stay engaged and present.
- Continued **expansion of out-of-school-time programming**, connecting students with after-school clubs and enrichment opportunities ranging from STEM and the arts to leadership development and hands-on learning like drone photography.

- **Increased outreach and services to families by over 1,000%**—growing from 460 family members reached to over 4,600.

This year also marked an important milestone as PACS welcomed the Aliquippa School District into our network—our first partner district in Beaver County. As the Community School strategy continues to take hold across our region, we are proud to partner with Aliquippa's educators, families, and community organizations to build the same collaborative approach that has strengthened schools across our network.

None of this work happens in isolation. It is made possible by the dedication of our staff, the leadership of our school partners, and the commitment of hundreds of community organizations that help provide services, build relationships, and create opportunities around students and families every day.

As PACS continues to grow, we are equally focused on what comes next. The past several years were about building this network; now our responsibility is to sustain it—by strengthening our operations, sharpening our strategy, and diversifying our funding—so the impact we see today endures for years to come.

Together, we are building schools where students feel supported, families feel welcomed, and communities feel connected—and the momentum ahead is powerful.

Bridget Clement
Executive Director

Integrated Student Supports

Many students carry far more than school-work with them into the classroom each day. Hunger, unstable housing, trauma, violence, and other hardships can make it difficult for young people to fully engage in school and reach their potential.

PACS works alongside schools every day to help identify barriers, support families, and connect students with the resources they need to thrive both in and out of the classroom. Sometimes that support means meeting an immediate basic need; other times, it means building lasting relationships with students who need someone in their corner.

Here are some examples of how our Integrated Student Supports have impacted our community this year:

New Kensington-Arnold Academic Improvement

Roy A. Hunt Elementary made headlines when it was removed from the Pennsylvania Department of Education's improvement list for the first time in at least a decade. PACS helped the school reach this milestone through student engagement incentives, like its Steel City Golf event that **increased perfect attendance from 51 to 90 students.**

Sto-Rox Blessing Bags

Small acts of support can make a meaningful difference in students' days—and their futures. Through the Blessing Bags initiative, PACS connected students experiencing housing instability with **reliable access to essential hygiene items and food resources**, providing stability during challenging times. Teachers reported **fewer absences and better engagement** when students received consistent support.

Below: staff at Sto-Rox assemble Blessing Bags. Right: Steel City Golf event at Roy A. Hunt Elementary.



"PACS is amazing with my family and especially my kids... they get so excited about the food banks, the fruit stands, the community activities, the attendance rewards. They are a blessing"

Expanded and Enriched Learning Time

Learning does not stop when the school day ends. Opportunities like afterschool programs, sports, arts, tutoring, mentoring, and summer activities help students build confidence, explore their interests, and stay engaged in school. Yet many students in our communities face barriers to accessing those experiences.

PACS believes every child deserves opportunities to learn and grow beyond the classroom. **Through expanded learning and enrichment programs, PACS creates safe and supportive spaces where students can build skills, form connections, and discover new possibilities for their future.**

These experiences strengthen academic engagement while helping students develop confidence, leadership, and a sense of belonging.

Clairton Arts Experience

One hundred students participated in the Disney Musicals in Schools program, thanks to a grant through the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust. Students staged 101 Dalmatians with support from PACS and school staff. **It was the first time robust arts programming like this was available to students here in 20 years.**

East Allegheny School Garden

Through building garden beds, planting seeds, and nurturing plants, elementary students cultivated more than flowers, vegetables, and a green thumb. **They developed valuable life skills such as teamwork, responsibility, patience, problem solving,**

and environmental stewardship. Plus, they shared the fruits of their labor by taking home what they grew to share with their families and friends.

Student Empowerment at Duquesne

Empowered girls become empowered women. **A partnership with the Black Women's Policy Center taught middle school girls how to advocate for themselves.** One student said the skills she learned help her feel better prepared to speak up for herself in a meeting with the dean of students.

Below: cohort of Duquesne district students working with the Black Women's Policy Center. Right: Clairton student working on the set of 101 Dalmatians.

It was the first time robust arts programming like this was available to students here in 20 years.



Active Family and Community Engagement

Student success is strongest when schools, families, and communities work together. But for many families, navigating available resources and support systems can feel overwhelming.

PACS helps bridge those gaps by connecting students and families with the people, programs, and services that

can support them both in and out of school. **Through partnerships with more than 230 community organizations, PACS helps ensure families have access to opportunities, resources, and relationships that strengthen student success.**

By building strong connections between schools and the communities around them, PACS helps create a larger network of support for every child.

McKees Rocks Community Events

Community connection and well-being are at the heart of violence prevention. Under the umbrella of Cure Violence, PACS creates pathways for community engagement, resource provision, and crisis response support.

Here are some ways PACS brings people together:

- **Monday night violence prevention basketball league:** These games united people from the county and the city for friendly competition.

- **Thanksgiving giveaways:** In partnership with the ACTES (Achieving Change through Transitional Employment Services) Program, Zellous Hope Project, and the Community Violence Reduction Initiative, PACS helped to feed the community and distribute gift cards in time for the holidays.
- **Job search support:** Resume tips and a confidence boost were some of the take-aways for participants. Plus, PACS and its partners kept in touch with people so they knew they had someone to turn to while seeking employment.

Below: Monday night basketball league, "Shoot Hoops ... Not People."



How You Can Get Involved



Sponsor Our Students

Corporate partnerships can support more students and families. Ask about our EITC program for extra tax benefits.



Workforce Development

Help students prepare for the workforce through training, internships, workshops, job fairs, and career speaking engagements at schools.



Donate Your Time

Make an impact by volunteering at one of our food pantries, afterschool programs, or community events.



Sit on Our Board

Contribute your expertise and leadership to our board or other committees, helping shape the future of education.



In-Kind Support

Organize donation drives for clothing, personal care items, or school supplies for students, or help PACS with the services your business offers.



Field Trips for Students

Sponsor educational/recreational trips or activities for students, enhancing their learning experience.

Collaborative Leadership

Breaking down all barriers students face requires more than individual programs or services—it requires people working together with a shared purpose. Collaborative leadership helps bring schools, families, community partners, and local organizations together to identify needs, coordinate efforts, and create lasting solutions for students.

PACS works closely with district leaders, educators, families, and community stakeholders to strengthen communication, align resources, and support shared decision-making across our schools.

By building strong partnerships and a shared vision for student success, schools are better equipped to respond to challenges, strengthen opportunities, and create more connected and supportive communities.

Everyone in a community school—from students to superintendents—should have a voice in their school. Here's how PACS is bringing them together:

Attendance-Boosting Incentives

Across the districts that PACS serves, our staff collaborated with schools' leadership, students, and families to identify and address attendance barriers. **Students with perfect attendance were rewarded through monthly incentives.** The PACS team noticed that students have come to expect and look forward to these attendance events, and they are having conversations with their families about getting to school regularly and on time so they can participate in the upcoming incentive.

Best of the Batch Foundation Collaboration

In its first year of implementation, the PACS team in Aliquippa aimed to make the holidays more merry and bright for local students and their families, thanks to a partnership with former Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Charlie Batch's foundation. **Together, we recommended families for assistance and coordinated gifts and food for them—including calling every family to confirm that they received their care packages.**



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Specialist
Arthur Venus
Attendance Specialist,
Burrell
Danielle Williams
Attendance Specialist,
New Kensington-Arnold

Our Reach & Impact

When students have the support they need, they can take root and thrive. PACS is helping make that possible for more students each year. As of the 2025–2026 school year, PACS' impact can be seen across our growing network:



Supported over 600 students with basic needs like food and school supplies



8,000 students served throughout 8 school districts in Allegheny, Beaver, and Westmoreland Counties



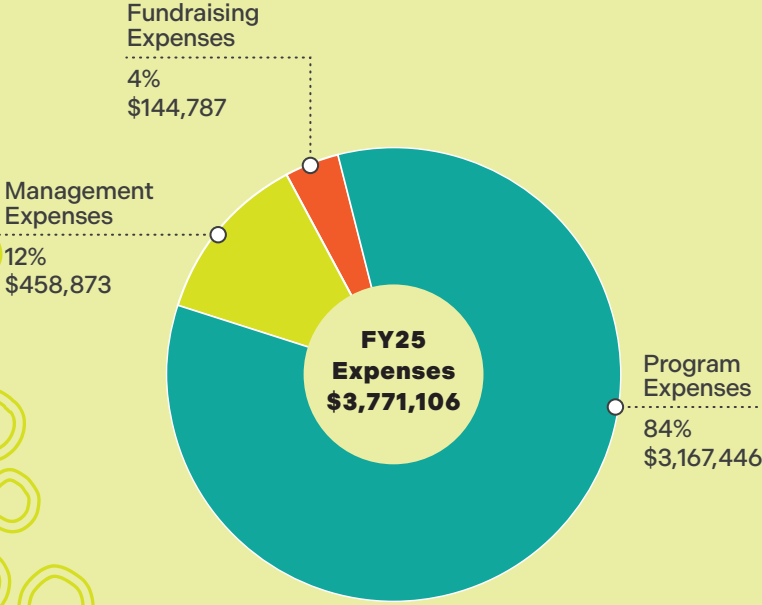
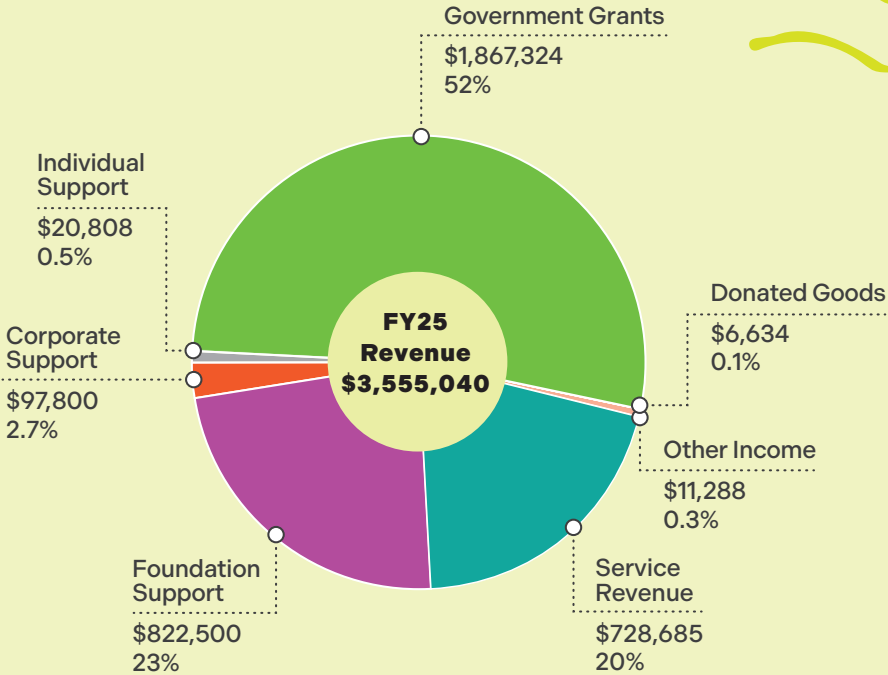
Provided Out-of-School enrichment to over 475 students



Engaged over 6000 parents and community members with outreach events



Financial Data





Pittsburgh Area Community Schools

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