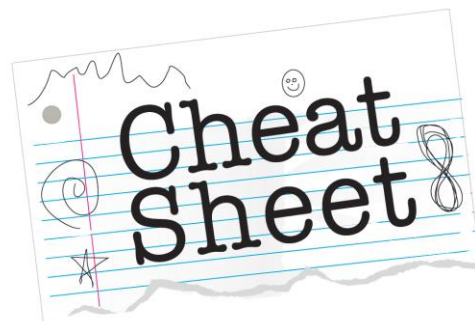


Philadelphia Education ABCs...

#PHLed - follow this hashtag on Twitter for posts related to Philadelphia Education.

440 - What some might refer to as the School District Administrative building located at 440 N. Broad St.



Charter Schools - are privately run but publicly funded schools. Some are run by nonprofit organizations and others are run by for-profit organizations. The per pupil dollars follow the students who attend. Admission usually done by a lottery system. Ex. KIPP, Mastery

City-wide Admission High School - Open to any student throughout the city; usually has a special focus to draw students away from the neighborhood. Ex. High School of the Future

Community Schools - both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. Its integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. In Philadelphia, the Mayor's Office of Education supporting nine community schools.

CTE: Career and Technical Education

EMO: External Management Organization - started in 2002 (as part of state takeover), management of a number of low-performing schools was given to private companies under district supervision.

ELL: English Language Learner

ESL: English as a Second-Language

IEP: Individualized Education Program - a document that is developed for each public school child who needs special education. The IEP is created through a team effort, reviewed periodically.

MOE: Mayor's Office of Education - Mayor Kenney's core initiatives for education include: Quality Pre-K, Community Schools, and Career and Technical Education.

Neighborhood School - Anyone living within the catchment area can attend. Ex. Edison High School

PFT: Philadelphia Federation of Teachers - the union representing teacher is the School District of Philadelphia.

PSU: Philadelphia Student Union - Started in 1995 at the White Dog Café in West Philadelphia. Students wanted to be part of education reform by giving students a leadership role. Started by students mostly from magnet schools but has reached neighborhood school students as well.



- Over 3,500 students have completed the leadership development program
- Holds weekly chapter meetings at many high schools
- Key issues: Suspending school closings until further study, Fair funding, Improving school climate and disciplinary practices

Renaissance/Turnaround - started in 2010, schools that have failed and been turned over to a private company to run

- Lowest performing schools targeted for strategic improvements
- Expectations: longer school day and school year, a quality curriculum, student enrichment programs during and after school
- The principal and administrative staff will be removed along with 50% of the teaching staff. Teachers who want to stay will have to reapply for their jobs.
- Some of the restructuring options: Run by an outside organization as a charter school with an independent governing board; Run as a contract school reporting to the School District; Run by District staff as an “innovation school” In the first two cases, the teaching staff will no longer be school district employees.

SDP: School District of Philadelphia

Special Admission (Magnet) High Schools - Requires top grades, attendance, and behavior records. May also require artistic portfolio and/or audition. Ex. Masterman, Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

Special Admit programs - Special program within an existing neighborhood or citywide high school, often technical. Ex. Benjamin Franklin Center for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology

SRC: School Reform Commission - In 2001, the state of Pennsylvania took over Philadelphia's local school board. The mayor consented and the change came with an influx of state and local funds after years of turmoil.

More recently the governor and mayors have asked to end the state takeover.

- 5 Member Commission, smallest among other major US cities
- No power to tax the local population (even before SRC)
- Members are appointed, not voted (even before SRC). The mayor used to appoint all members, but now appoints only 2
- Philadelphia is not alone among large cities to have state takeovers
- Current movement to disband the SRC and call for local control of school district



State Takeover Plan - Put the district under the control of a School Reform Commission. Plan includes

- Hiring a CEO
- Enabling the CEO to reform the teaching staff by hiring non-certified staff
- Reconstituting troubled schools by reassigning or firing staff
- Allowing the commission to hire for-profit firms to manage some schools
- Converting some schools to charter schools
- Reallocating and redistribute school district resources
- Management of some of the lowest-achieving schools given to to for-profit and nonprofit organizations as well as two local universities



TAG: Teacher Action Group Philadelphia - works to strengthen the influence of educators within schools and over policy decisions. While partnering with parent, student, and community groups, TAG is committed to fostering positive school transformation, environments where students and teachers can thrive, and community ownership and influence within education. The majority of TAG members are full-time teachers in Philadelphia, but also include nurses, counselors, after-school educators, and allies of public education. www.tagphilly.org

WE: The Caucus of Working Educators - a group within the PFT open to all who seek to support and energize the union as well as work alongside the students, families, and communities of Philadelphia. <http://www.workingeducators.org>

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