



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Education Department Advancing Wolf Administration's School Improvement Plan

Intermediate Units to Lead Implementation of System for District and School Improvement

Harrisburg, PA – As part of Governor Tom Wolf's plan to help schools and improve education across the commonwealth, superintendents from Pittsburgh, Juniata County and Allentown joined Department of Education (PDE) Secretary Pedro A. Rivera today to highlight their early participation in Pennsylvania's comprehensive System for District and School Improvement.

"Our new school improvement system is built upon an evidence-based framework to support schools and increase focus on key practices associated with sustained improvement in teaching and learning," said Secretary Rivera. "By engaging with stakeholders, evaluating promising practices from other states, and examining PDE's own earlier school improvement initiatives, we are setting conditions that empower educators and communities and ensure strong accountability for results."

Secretary Rivera was joined by Pittsburgh Public Schools Superintendent Anthony Hamlet, Juniata County School District Superintendent Keith Yarger and Allentown School District Superintendent Thomas Parker. The three districts piloted the program in 19 schools in the 2017-18 year. Eleven schools participated in Pittsburgh, seven in Allentown, and one in Juniata County.

Each of the participating school districts assembled diverse teams of educators to help PDE field-test school improvement tools and identify opportunities to align school and district-level planning with the state's emerging school improvement framework.

The U.S. Department of Education's Mid-Atlantic Comprehensive Center provided support through a formative evaluation of pilot site experiences, which found that "empowering a variety of stakeholders in the school community to have a voice in the school improvement process fostered collaboration and shared responsibility, and resulted in priorities and action plans that districts were invested in. Principals and other building leaders offered specific strategies used to refine and enhance the tools and processes and will help increase the impact of this work for schools across the state."

The program will be expanded this fall and will be led by the Allegheny Intermediate Unit (IU) 3, in collaboration with Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13, Berks County IU 14 and Chester County IU 24. The program will include schools that are classified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement, or Title I schools that fall in the bottom five percent of performance statewide, as outlined in the state's approved Every Student Succeeds Act Plan.

For more information about Pennsylvania's education policies and programs, please visit the Department of Education's website at www.education.pa.gov or follow PDE on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [Pinterest](#).

NOTE: Video, audio, and photos from this event will be available for download later today in an email from the Pennsylvania Internet News Service (PINS). To register for PINS emails contact, cms@pacast.com.

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