

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Post-Education Committee Revisions (Nov. 2014) Transition Working Group Professional Team Meeting

The Transition Working Group of key stakeholders was convened pursuant to the *M.S. Settlement Agreement*, which was signed just over a year ago. The Transition Working Group was charged by the Settlement Agreement to develop a written list of recommendations to improve the District's provision of inclusive and comprehensive community-based transition services for all students with disabilities.

The District appointed half of the working group members and selected personnel with expertise in vocational education and transition services. The Education Law Center appointed the other half of the working group and selected members to represent the voices of a variety of multi-cultural parents, students and community members who brought their experience and expertise on issues of transition for students with disabilities.

The following recommendations and corresponding timelines are the result of the Working Group's honest, direct and collaborative process. They are listed in the order of priority.

RECOMMENDATION #1: Clarify the role and job description of the transition counselor for school administration and staff. Utilize the transition counselor to maximize their expertise while creating strategies to fill in personnel gaps that remain after fully utilizing the transition counselor. *Timeline for Completion: December 2015*

RECOMMENDATION #2: Increase focus on students with social and emotional challenges (mental health/behavioral challenges), including students at Oliver Citywide Academy, to support and expand transition opportunities. *Timeline for Completion: July 2016*

RECOMMENDATION #3: Conduct overarching review of the District's transition programs and services. In particular, increase access to academic support for transition beginning in or before 9th grade. *Timeline for Completion: July 2016*

RECOMMENDATION #4: Increase collaborations inside the District and in the broader community to support awareness and transition readiness for all children. *Timeline for Completion: July 2016*

RECOMMENDATION #5: Increase parent and student involvement in transition planning and implementation. *Timeline for Completion: December 2015*

RECOMMENDATION #6: Evaluate the transition services being provided to students ages 14 to 21 with Section 504 Plans / Chapter 15 Service Agreements. *Timeline for Completion: December 2015*

These recommendations are the first, very important step towards ensuring that all children in the Pittsburgh Public Schools have access to quality career and technology, post-secondary transition planning, including special education transition programs and services.