Bricks + Books

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Background on PEP Rally

Loss of population under age 18 from 2000-2010
- Over 25% in Bloomfield, Central Lawrenceville, Garfield, Lower Lawrenceville, Polish Hill, and Strip District

Top project from the East End Partnership’s “Catalytic Revitalization Strategies”
- Research from this and from UCSUR’s “new mover study” of Lawrenceville and PPND-supported quality-of-life surveys all identified school quality as a priority for residents.
- “East End Parent Engagement Project” funded as pilot project by PPND (Neighborhood Allies) for 2013-2014 school year.
- Collaborative project of East End community organizations housed at Lawrenceville United.
PEP Rally Work Areas

5 target areas for Pilot Year:

1. Engage current parents at 3 target schools: Arsenal Elementary, Arsenal Middle School, Woolsclair Elementary
2. Engage potential parents
3. Market school options to local families
4. Identify potential community-school partnerships
5. Collect data to understand issues and inform work going forward
Collecting information

- Interviews and focus groups with hundreds of local parents: current parents at target schools, parents who “opted out” for other options, and parents whose kids aren’t yet school age.

- Worked with UCSUR to get data on number of kids and school decisions being made.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feeder Area</th>
<th>Pittsburgh Public Schools</th>
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<th>Charter</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feeder</td>
<td>Magnet</td>
<td>Other PPS</td>
<td>Total PPS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARSENAL K-5</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>4%</td>
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<td>7%</td>
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Source: PPS, UCSUR, PNCIS for 2013-2014 school year
Engaging a working group of parents to support the school
Parent Led Program with A+ Schools

What's your VISION for Arsenal?
what do you want to see for students, teachers, & the school?
Organizing and advocacy
Developing community partnerships
Reaching parents in the community
Involving the school in community events
Opening the school as a community space
Connecting schools and families to community planning
Connecting Arsenal with the business district
Arsenal as a space to build community
Discussion