



Everybody Graduates! Campaign

Neighborhood Learning Alliance  
Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation  
5429 Penn Avenue, 15206  
412-363-1910

February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Dear Dave Atkinson,

Pittsburgh Public School students need your help. We are writing to request your input on a bold effort to support many of Pittsburgh Obama's most vulnerable children while creating a model of community supported schools that can be replicated across the Pittsburgh School District.

Please join us for this important meeting about the future of some of our most vulnerable Pittsburgh Obama students at the Crazy Mocha, 5607 Baum Blvd on February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30AM. We are reaching out to you because you are a friend whose opinion and leadership we strongly value and because of your understanding of the Highland Park neighborhood and its assets.

The goal of the Everybody Graduates campaign is to significantly increase the number of students graduating from Pittsburgh Public Schools. We are all aware of the struggles of so many of our Pittsburgh Public School students. Our current graduation rate is 68%, with a significantly lower graduation rate for African American and lower income students. We are all also more than aware of the financial struggles facing the Pittsburgh School District. We know how much you care about the East End neighborhoods and children and hope that you will join us in becoming actively involved in the solution to the challenges facing our families and our district.

Each of you knows the importance of adult guidance through the challenging high school years. You likely had parents or other important adults helping guide your success. Those of you who are parents are providing that support for your children now. We just want to make sure every student has that same opportunity.

Pittsburgh Obama is a great school for an initial effort. The great majority of its students are succeeding. With a little extra help from the community, we can change that statement to "all of its students are succeeding."

Our initial meeting will focus on the feasibility of enlisting Highland Park residents as volunteers to provide tutoring and mentoring services to students the school identifies as needing a little extra help.

Please RSVP by emailing us at [everybodygraduates@neighborhoodlearning.org](mailto:everybodygraduates@neighborhoodlearning.org) or calling 610.764.7431.

Sincerely,

Stephen MacIsaac  
Executive Director  
Neighborhood Learning Alliance

Rick Flanagan  
Youth Development Director  
Bloomfield Garfield Corporation