

**PITTSBURGH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE GRABLE AND PITTSBURGH
FOUNDATIONS AND HEINZ ENDOWMENTS**

July 9, 2002

Today's decision of three major foundations to suspend all grants to the Pittsburgh Public Schools is regrettable. It will have an immediate and significant impact on the key educational initiatives contained in the Superintendent's Agenda In Action.

Over the past 17 years we have enjoyed collegial and collaborative partnerships that have enriched the lives of generations of students, teachers, parents and communities.

The District has received millions of dollars in grants that support school programs and teacher training. Ninety-five percent of the grants have supported improvements in instruction directly in schools and classrooms.

We have worked positively with representatives from these foundations to shape educational reform initiatives designed to improve student learning, and we have engaged them in strategic planning activities to define the district's mission, vision and key goals. In addition, we have relied on them for advice and counsel.

At the present time we have standing multi-year grants for the Superintendent's Agenda in Action. These include Literacy Plus (reading and writing) and PrimePlus (mathematics and science), and technology. The news comes at a time when we are

looking forward to dramatic increases in student achievement in Literacy Plus and PrimePlus. The loss of supplemental funds from these foundations for the next will jeopardize the success of these programs and the educational performance of students.

Tomorrow we will provide additional details about the impact of this decision on our initiatives.