

Key to Educational Programs & Terms

4Sight: Pennsylvania 4Sight Benchmark Assessments are valid and reliable assessments aligned to the PSSA that provide an estimate of student performance on the PSSA, as well as PA Academic Standards and Assessment Anchor level data to guide classroom instruction and professional development efforts.

ActiVote: An interactive response device used by students in conjunction with whiteboards and teacher lessons to select answers to questions that both tracks progress and scores for student and teacher feedback purposes.

AFG: Accreditation for Growth. AFG is the process through which the school maintains accreditation through the Middle States Association of College and Schools. AFG is about creating a vision and then putting the systems in place to achieve goals. Accreditation for Growth rests on the concepts of self-regulation and quality improvement. The school identifies strengths and areas for potential growth and develops action plans that will ensure improved student performance in selected objectives.

AIU3: Allegheny Intermediate Unit3. The Allegheny Intermediate Unit (AIU) is a branch of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and is the largest of the 29 intermediate units in Pennsylvania. It is located in Homestead and provides specialized education services to 42 suburban public school districts and five vocational and technical schools in Allegheny County. Funded by federal, state, county and private grants, the AIU coordinates 130 programs designed to help infants, young children, students and adults.

Allegheny Connect: AIU3 Educational Network, consisting of all public schools in Allegheny County.

Applied Learning Schedule: A new modified schedule instituted in Highlands Middle School that "blocks" periods for two days and allows students to focus on two academic subjects and apply their skills and knowledge in a variety of creative and innovative ways.

Asset Science: ASSET Inc. is an education improvement nonprofit that supports school districts in implementing a standards-based science education program through teacher professional development aligned with hands-on curriculum materials for grades K-8.

Bridges: A career exploration tool.

BOY: Beginning of school year



Key

BSC: Balanced Scorecard Report

CFF: Classrooms for the Future. CFF is funding for enabling teachers to use technology as an effective tool for educating students, and for preparing students to enter and successfully compete in the ever-expanding high-tech global marketplace.

CHOICES: Career exploration tool.

CIPA Content Filter: Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA). A filter that blocks inappropriate content.

Co-Teaching: Co-Teaching, the practice of having two or more educators in a classroom, delivering or assisting in the daily lesson, is an alternative method to delivering instruction and meeting the needs of a larger variety of students. Co-teaching can be done in several ways, and can range from a second teacher simply visiting the classroom to see what instruction is going on, and to assist anyone who seems to need a little extra help, to team teaching, in which both teachers plan, deliver and assess the students' work.

Dark Fiber: Fiber optic cable.

Differentiated Supervision: A differentiated system of supervision in which teachers can choose from among four different supervision styles. Research indicates that the differentiated system is feasible and has a positive effect on those who participate and each school is encouraged to develop its own version of the system, after teachers, supervisors, and administrators have had an opportunity to discuss ideas and their own needs.

E-Alerts: Email announcements and information sent via the district website to registered users (parents/employees/residents).

E2020 Program: Education2020. Education2020 helps school districts provide core and elective instruction in a virtual school setting for students in grades 6-12. Courseware is aligned to state and national standards.

EdInsight: Data information system.

EETT: Enhancing Education Through Technology. EETT is funding for school technology from the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 used in classrooms to improve student academic achievement. Funds are distributed through formula and competitive grants.

EOY: End of school year



Key

Forbes CTC: Forbes Road Career and Technology Center. A quality vocational and technical education school located in Monroeville. Some Highlands High School students attend this school for training and then return to the high school for academics.

GIEP: Gifted Individualized Education Plan. A GIEP is an outlined plan designed to meet the unique educational needs of one child, who may be considered gifted, as defined by federal regulations.

HeadStart: The AIU Head Start Program provides preschool children with a comprehensive, flexible program designed to reinforce and respond to the unique strengths and needs of each individual child and family. The program offers services that include health and wellness, education, social services, early intervention, and parent involvement and support.

HVA: Highlands Virtual Academy. The Highlands School District Cyber School.

IEP: Individualized Education Plan. An IEP is an outlined plan designed to meet the unique educational needs of one child, who may have a disability, as defined by federal regulations. The IEP is designed from results of the IEP evaluation process, and is used to help teachers and related service providers (such as paraprofessional educators) understand the student's learning process.

K/4: Highlands School District pre-school program for four-year-old students.

Keys2Work: Keys2Work is a career-based skills remediation program that leads to WorkKeys credentialing in core workplace skills. Keys2Work is used by school districts and community-based organizations statewide to document skill gains in terms of both improved academic achievement and enhanced workplace preparation.

LS: Learning Support.

MAGPI: A network students and teachers utilize to participate in interactive video exchanges and enrich traditional classroom learning.

MOY: Middle of school year

One Call Now System: A alert system that communicates messages and notifications to district staff and families.

PBS: Positive-Behavior Support. The program offers a primary, secondary, and tertiary level of intervention and identifies students in one of three categories based on risk for behavior problems. Interventions are specifically developed for each of these levels with the goal of reducing the risk for academic or social failure. These interventions may be behavioral and or academic interventions incorporating scientifically proven forms of instruction such as direct instruction. The interventions become more focused and complex as one examines the strategies used at each level.



Key

PPS: Pupil Personnel Services.

Progress Book: A software for K-12 educators that makes grades, student information, and attendance available to parents and students on-line.

Promethean Boards: An interactive whiteboard.

PSSA: Pennsylvania System of School Assessment. The annual PSSA is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment used to measure a student's attainment of the academic standards while also determining the degree to which school programs enable students to attain proficiency of the standards. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 3 through 8 and grade 11 is assessed in reading and math. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 5, 8 and 11 is assessed in writing. Every Pennsylvania student in grades 4, 8 and 11 is assessed in science.

PTA/PTO: Parent-Teacher Associations/Organizations. A group consisting of parent volunteers who assist in fundraising, event planning and other functions in cooperation with the principal and staff of a school.

PVAAS: Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System: An indicator of growth or progress of groups of students towards mastery of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards.

RAC: RAC word-building. A method of teaching primary age students to build words based on the work at the Reading Achievement Center at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit.

RAMS: Respectful, Accountable, Motivated and Safe. RAMS is the driving slogan behind Positive Behavior Support in our schools. Students are taught the RAMS expectations and behaviors that are accepted in school and are encouraged to practice RAMS behavior and decision-making in their personal lives.

RAPTOR System: A system that scans background checks for visitors to buildings and district volunteers.

RtII: Response to Instruction and Intervention (RtII) an early intervening strategy that carries dual meaning in Pennsylvania. It is a comprehensive, multi-tiered, standards aligned strategy to enable early identification and intervention for students at academic or behavioral risk. RtII also allows educators to identify and address academic and behavioral difficulties prior to student failure. Monitoring student response to a series of increasingly intense interventions assists in preventing failure and provides data used to determine how to improve student achievement using research based core instructional practices and interventions matched to the instructional need and level of the student.



Key

Sanctuary: Sanctuary Model. The Sanctuary Model represents a theory-based, trauma-informed, evidence-supported, whole culture approach that has a clear and structured methodology for creating or changing an organizational culture. The Sanctuary Model is a blueprint for clinical and organizational change which promotes safety and recovery from adversity through the active creation of a trauma-informed community. A recognition that trauma is pervasive in the experience of human beings forms the basis for the Sanctuary Model's focus not only on the people who seek treatment, but equally on the people and systems that provide that treatment.

SpellRead: SpellRead is a literacy program for struggling readers in grades 2 or above, including special education students, English language learners, and students more than two years below grade level in reading. SpellRead integrates the auditory and visual aspects of the reading process and emphasizes specific skill mastery through systematic and explicit instruction.

TCC Committee: Teacher Communicator Committee. A TCC is functioning at each school building and provides input on school or district initiatives.

Tenex: Student information system.

Title I: The purpose of this title is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state academic assessments. This purpose is accomplished at Highlands with an intensified reading program, distribution of materials, specialized education, and determination of at-risk students.

VLANs: Virtual Local Area Networks.

VLN: Virtual Learning Network. A provider for Highlands Virtual Academy, the district Cyber School.