

SPOTLIGHT



“Spring”ing into Action

As we step into spring, we want to take a moment to celebrate the resilience, leadership, and community strength that drive Safe Passage forward. Happy belated Black History Month and Women’s History Month! We honor the unique experiences and strengths that everyone contributes to building a safer world, together.

Over the past few months, Safety Ambassadors have been at the forefront of impactful change, actively implementing the Safe Passage Safety Model and deepening their commitment to violence prevention. We are thrilled to share some of the latest data showcasing the impact of this critical anti-violence work.

We are also excited to announce that Safe Passage is now on Instagram! Stay connected and follow @safepassagepgh for more frequent updates.

Keep reading to see how we’re making a difference!



The Buhl
Foundation

Safe Passage is a school-based anti-violence program rooted in treating the disease of violence using a public health approach and the Safe Passage Safety Model. It is currently implemented at Alderdice High, Arlington PreK-8, Brashear High, UPrep 6-12, Obama Academy 6-12, Perry High, and Westinghouse High to reduce the transmission of the disease of violence among Pittsburgh Public Schools students and their communities.

FEATURED SPOTLIGHTS:

Safe Passage Scoop

Program Data Updates

Safety Ambassador Spotlight

Safe Passage Resources

Stakeholders and Partners

Safe Passage Scoop

Discipline and Violence Decreases Among Safe Passage Schools

District-wide Pittsburgh Public Schools data from the beginning of the school year through February for 2023-24 and 2024-25, across all Safe Passages schools, demonstrates an overall decrease in the number of discipline events and the number of unique students involved in such events:

- 27% decrease in total discipline events.
- 25% decrease in major discipline events.
- 14% decrease in students involved.
- 7.7% decrease in violent events.

Data provided by Pittsburgh Public Schools

Safety Ambassadors Trained to "See Something, Say Something"

Multiple Safe Passage programs host and participate in their school's SAVE Promise Club. At Obama's Safe Passage led SAVE Promise Club, Safety Ambassadors participated in a field trip that provided an important opportunity for Safety Ambassadors to engage in training for the "See Something, Say Something" initiative.

This program taught students how to identify and report potentially dangerous or concerning situations, which directly aligns with Pillar 1 of the Safe Passage Safety Model: Detect and Interrupt. The Safety Ambassadors in attendance for this training were Jimar Mangham, Zamir Marshall, Devon Robinson-Young, and Jai'Mere Jennings. This reflects their commitment to fostering safety and awareness within the community through multiple avenues.



Community Health and Healing

It is instrumental to the foundation of Safe Passage to support each other through times of both strength and strife. Over the past few months, Safe Passage Coordinators from every school have been coming together to collectively support and uplift each of our schools, students, and community.

Additionally, staff underwent a Narcan Training through the Office of Community Health & Safety. This training taught staff how to recognize signs of an overdose and how to administer Narcan. This was critical to Safe Passage's mission of ensuring the safety and well-being of the communities we serve.

Follow us on Instagram!

We are very excited to announce that Safe Passage is now on Instagram!

Follow us for more program highlights and updates:



@safepassagepgh

Safe Passage Scoop (cont.)

Safety Ambassadors' Excellence Spreads Pride

On March 22, 54 engineering teams competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The BotDogs, the team representing Westinghouse Academy, included two Safety Ambassadors from Safe Passage: Allen Wells and Nathan Holmes. This team earned a highly competitive spot as an alternate in the bracketed rounds.

The dedication required to achieve such a feat is one championed by Pillar 3 (Change Community Norms) and 4 (Provide Identities) of Safe Passage's Safety Model. Commitment and hard work such as this continues to make a positive impact on the school community, and was even featured in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette!

Read the full article here: [Robot obstacles and camaraderie: See it at FIRST Robotics Competition Downtown | Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#)



January-March at a Glance:



57
mediations conducted to interrupt the transmission of the disease of violence



525
community resources sent to Safe Passage participants



Exploring Career Identities

Entrepreneur Diondre Faulk came to Obama in March to host a Business Marketing and Entrepreneurship workshop with Safety Ambassadors. Topics discussed included the basic needs for starting a business, identifying a target market for products, and strategies for appealing to that market.

This informative presentation provided an opportunity for Safety Ambassadors to engage with Pillar 4 of the Safety Model: Provide Identities.



Athletic Engagement

Thanks to a generous donation from the Phoenixx Helsel Family Foundation, Safety Ambassadors and Coordinators were invited to attend a Penguins' Hockey game and UPitt Men's Basketball game. Safe Passage members engaged in conversations with leaders and even got to meet some of the players! These enrichment experiences provided Safety Ambassadors with networking and aspirational growth opportunities.

Thank you again to the Phoenixx Helsel Family Foundation for making these experiences possible!



Shoutout to the male Safety Ambassadors at Allderdice for their participation in a young men's group ran by Safe Passage Coordinator Rick Butler and Micah Wilderson, PPS Student Equity Advocate! This group focuses on critical topics such as decision making, entrepreneurship, and relationships.



SAFETY AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



It is important to take a moment to recognize the successes of our Safety Ambassadors who are working hard every day to implement the Safe Passage Safety Model in their school and community. We are so proud of you!



Alderdice

Naisjan Graham: Nominated for Alderdice's Student of the Month and has greatly improved his behavior and focus within Safe Passage!



Arlington

Dario Benson: Is a new Safety Ambassador that has strong leadership qualities!



Obama

Clifton Staten: Represented Kobe Bryant, the legendary basketball player, and educated visitors of the Black History Month Wax Museum Exhibit about Bryant's life!

Jasmine Colbert: Member of the Youth Steering Committee, a month-long program focused on environmental awareness and how creativity can inspire change beyond the school setting!

Jimar Mangham: Represented and educated visitors of the Black History Month Wax Museum Exhibit about Brandon Marshall, former NFL wide-receiver and Pittsburgh native!

Lindsay Baldwin: Recognized for her award-winning art by Charley Palmer and the August Wilson House, as well as being a member of the Youth Steering program!

Zoe Howard: Attended the Student Voice Conference and spoke on how real news vs. fake news can affect the perception of Pittsburgh Public Schools. She also received a 1200 on her SAT!

Osman Ali: Plans to attend an HVAC trade school in Robinson Township!

Mikyah Davis: Accepted to Clark Atlanta College!

La'nya Jones: Received a 4.0 for 3 consecutive semesters!

Maleek Parks: Is in the Black Men Read program - travels to John Morrow Elementary School to read books to Kindergarten students!



Perry



UPrep

Xair Stevenson: Accepted to University at Buffalo and awarded an Athletic Scholarship for Football!

John Bailey and Derreon Germany: Providing guidance, support, and positive leadership to middle school mentees!

Allen Wells and Nathan Holmes: Participated at the FIRST Robotics Competition Greater Pittsburgh Regional!



Westinghouse

Safe Passage Resources



Safe Passage Website: [Click Here](#)

Operation Better Block Website: [Click Here](#)

NewEra412 Community Resources: [Click Here](#) Register to Vote: [Click Here](#)

Pittsburgh Public Schools Website: [Click Here](#) Instagram: [@safepassagepgh](#)

Upcoming Programming

National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit

April 26, 2025
Philadelphia, PA

Safe Passage Coordinators at Perry who serve as Perry's SAVE Promise Club sponsors, applied and were awarded a scholarship to travel to the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit! Youth leaders will be able to strengthen their knowledge of violence prevention practices and connect with like-minded youth from across the country.

Safe Passage Banquet

June 2025 (exact date tbd)
TBD

Safe Passage will host a banquet to honor and recognize all graduating Safety Ambassadors for their dedication to the Safe Passage Safety Model.

More details will be released soon.

Pittsburgh Public School Commencements

Week of June 9, 2025
Various Locations

12th Grade Safety Ambassadors across all schools will have their commencement ceremonies to celebrate graduation.

For more information:
<https://www.pghschools.org/student-supports/graduation/commencement-schedule>

Join our Parent Council!

If you are a parent/guardian of a Safety Ambassador and would like to join the Parent Council, scan the QR codes below to complete the interest form and Support Survey!

The goal of the Parent Council is to bring the parents/guardians of the Safety Ambassadors from all Safe Passage schools together to build a network of support and provide them with resources and opportunities to be involved in their child's education and wellbeing.

Interest Form:



Support Survey:



Stakeholders and Partners

This program would not be possible without the collective support and trust of our stakeholders and partners. Thank you so much!

African American Leadership Association	BRAVE Teens	CMU PLUS Program	Hugh Lane Wellness	M- Powerhouse	Pittsburgh Promise and CCAC	Schools That Can	The Mentoring Partnership	
AKA	BUHL Foundation	Consortium For Public Education	Infinite Lifestyle Solutions	National Honors Association	Pittsburgh Promise Promise Coaches	Shades of Beauty	The Pittsburgh Project	
Aliya Wray's Salon	Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh	Dr. Norman Conti	Justice Scholars Institute	Neighborhood Learning Alliance	Pittsburgh Public Schools	Shadow Student Athletes	The Warhol Museum	When She Thrives
Birth of Ahava	Carnegie Mellon University	Duquesne University	La La's Salon & Spa	One Northside	Point Park University	S-Spa of Pgh	Thrive 18	Will Allen Foundation
Black Student Union	Carnegie Science Center	Eluma	Manchester Craftsmen's Guild	Operation Better Block	Pretty Brown Girl	TeenBloc (A+ Schools)	Turtle Creek Valley	Young Life
Bloom Salon	City of Asylum	Gay Straight Alliance (GSA)	Memorable Experience	PCTV	Pride Project Incorporated	The Ambiance Hair & Nail Salon	Urban Impact	
Boys & Girls Club	City of Pittsburgh	Grow Pittsburgh	Mercy Behavioral Health	Phoenixx Helsel Family Foundation	Project Destiny - YFE	The Challenge Program, Inc.	Village Center for Holistic Therapy	

For More Information

Visit our website: <https://www.pittsburghpa.gov/Safety/Public-Safety/Violence-Prevention/Safe-Passage>

