



# Allegheny County Council

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## Legislation Text

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Title...

Proclamation declaring Saturday, May 14, 2016 as “Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh Day” in Allegheny County.

Body...

**WHEREAS**, Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh is a program of Mercy Community Health, a division of Pittsburgh Mercy Health System (PMHS) and part of Trinity Health, serving in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy; PMHS first introduced Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh to 300 fifth-grade children in the Pittsburgh Public Schools in September 2009; Since then, more than 3,500 children in the Pittsburgh Public Schools, Extra Mile Education Foundation Schools in the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh, and local charter schools have benefited from the renowned arts-in-education program; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to teaching ballroom dancing, Dancing Classrooms teaches valuable lessons about respectful interaction, teamwork, dedication and camaraderie among students, parents, school staff and the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the curriculum enhances self-esteem, encourages self-dignity, appreciation of foreign cultures and the derivation of dance, helps students overcome social anxiety and results in increased courtesy and a noticeable gain in self-confidence; and

**WHEREAS**, over a ten-week period, Jennifer Hoffman, Hallie Leech, Gena Melago, Jennifer Milligan, Taryn Misner, Terry Sweeney, and Melissa Truby worked hand-in-hand with school staff throughout the school year to deliver two lessons per week, using the Dulaine Method of teaching ballroom dancing and preparing the students for a culminating event to determine who will become the “Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh Grand Champions” for the 2015-2016 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 14, 2016, at Pittsburgh Alderdice High School, the “Colors of the Rainbow” competition will feature the following ten schools: Pittsburgh Banksville, Pittsburgh Brookline, Pittsburgh Carmalt, Pittsburgh Colfax, Environmental Charter School, Sister Thea Bowman Academy, Pittsburgh Phillips, Pittsburgh West Liberty, Pittsburgh Westwood, and Pittsburgh Whittier;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Allegheny County Council does hereby declare Saturday, May 14, 2016 to be “**Dancing Classrooms Pittsburgh Day**” in Allegheny County and encourages all citizens of Allegheny County to observe this day, along with the students of the Pittsburgh schools, as a time to recognize and celebrate the important lessons that this program promotes.