About PFS

Philadelphia Freedom Schools (PFS) provide year round academic enrichment programming for students in grades K-12. The program exists to build intellectual, cultural, civic and political capacity of children and young adults in order to make meaningful change in themselves, their families, their schools, communities and larger society.

PFS is governed and managed through a federation of local community based organizations, with Communities In Schools of Philadelphia (CISP) serving as the lead agency, helping to offer developmental activities for children in need of academic, social and emotional enrichment.

PFS Sponsoring Agencies
Communities In Schools of Philadelphia
Congreso de Latinos Unidos
Frankford Family Support Services
Friends Neighborhood Guild
Netter Center for Community Partnership
Say Yes to Education
United Communities Southeast Philadelphia
Women’s Christian Alliance

The PFS Vision
The Philadelphia Freedom Schools’ vision is to create an excellent, physical and emotionally safe learning environment where children and adults integrate a love for reading and math with the need for cultural democracy, intergenerational leadership, and family alliances.

CORE VALUES
• Educational and Cultural Democracy
• Familial Alliances
• Civic Engagement
• Intergenerational Leadership
• Collective Work and Responsibility

Summer Philadelphia Freedom Schools
A six week literacy and math based program for students in grades K-8. The integrated curricula provides an opportunity to engage youth in a culturally responsive way, helping to create and strengthen a love for reading and mathematics.

Junior Servant Leaders (JSLs)
The goal of the JSLs component of PFS is to encourage high school students to embrace servant leadership as a force to heal and foster positive growth in the community.

JSL(s) function as classroom assistants in both after school and summer programs. On Wednesdays during the school year and summer camp, they are instructed by Dr. Greg Carr of Howard University and Academic Advisors who are certified teachers. The JSL(s) are coached toward the completion of an academic portfolio and a service learning project.

PFS Training
Yearly high school, college, and young professional staff are trained through PFS in literacy and math based summer curricula, team building and team teaching, service learning, history, and social activism. Facilitated by a cadre of young leaders called William Still and Fannie Lou Hamer Trainers, PFS trainings influence organizations and programs throughout the region.

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