



Home Inquirer Daily News News Business Sports Arts & Entertainment Living Restaurants & Food Travel

Jobs Cars Real Estate Rentals Marketplace

City & Local Sports Yo! Features Columnists Opinion Photos Multimedia National News Obituaries

Subscriber Services / Get a Subscription | Join Our Team

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

# CITY & LOCAL



email this print this reprint or license this

TEXT SIZE: A A A A

Posted on Thu, Feb. 26, 2009

## Ackerman and students to meet on reform plans

By MENSAH M. DEAN  
Philadelphia Daily News  
deanm@phillynews.com 215-854-5949

TROUBLED BY a reform plan that calls for shutting failing public schools and reopening them under new management, Philadelphia high-school students will air their concerns today during a 4:30 p.m. meeting with schools Superintendent Arlene Ackerman.

The students, members of the Philadelphia Student Union activist group, yesterday afternoon protested Ackerman's five-year, \$50 million "Imagine 2014" plan.

Standing on the steps of the district's North Broad Street headquarters, the students said that they oppose reform models that would allow charter schools or other outside management organizations to run schools.

A reform effort in Chicago Public Schools which does this has resulted in lower-income students being pushed out of their schools, said the students, who mocked that plan in a skit.

Any reforms that are used, they said, should first be approved by school communities.

"It's Not A Choice If We Have No Voice," read a sign held by a male student who sported a thick strip of tape over his mouth.

"They say it's innovation, we say it's segregation," chanted the students, who represented at least nine high schools.

"It's 55 years later after Brown v. the Board of Education, so now they're not trying to segregate schools by race, they're trying to segregate schools by money, by social standard, by how much money you pull down," said Khalif Dobson, 16, an 11th grader from West Philadelphia High.

Charelle Reed, a 12th grader from Overbrook High, praised plans to boost the number of counselors and put Student Success Centers, which help students apply to college, in each high school, but she said that turning to charter schools is not the answer.

"There are some real equity issues when it comes to charter schools," she said. "Charters have been known to push out English-language-learning students, special-needs students, along with poor students."

Since Ackerman announced details of her plan last week, students and education advocates have buzzed about which schools would be targeted for reform and what reform models would be used.

A question-and-answer sheet released by the district yesterday indicates that it will begin to select a pool of qualified school operators in the spring.

Tomas Hanna, the district's chief of school operations, said that the reform plan is "not about shipping kids out, it's not about lotteries. It's about making their local neighborhood school the best possible school it can be."

He said that among reform plans being studied are those in Chicago, Boston and Los Angeles. In addition, he said, successful district schools could also be used as reform models. \*

Buzz this story.

### PEOPLE WHO READ THIS ALSO READ ...AND BOUGHT:

- Ackerman cautious on KIPP plan
- Teachers at charter school vote to unionize
- Editorial: Phila. Schools
- District wins right to close ailing charter
- Phila students challenge 'Imagine 2014' plan



60" Wide



1 of 2 View images

#### READER FEEDBACK

Post a comment

#### SAVE AND SHARE

Buzz this story.



- Select One -

GET QUOTES

Site search

Welcome Guest | Register | Sign In

We're known for GREAT SAVES! 1-888-888-KIXX www.kixonline.com

Four PaXX \$69  
4 corner seats  
4 hot dogs  
4 sodas

All-Star Goalkeeper Peter Pappas

D'AMBRA PAPPAS DUO BOBBLE HEAD VS. KIXX

FIRST 2,500 FANS UNDER 14

March 1st 4:05pm

Advertise Here

### Today's Most Viewed Most Emailed

- Goodell's goodwill
- Police officer wounded, gunman killed in shootout
- Six free agents the Eagles should court
- RATING THE FREE AGENTS
- On the Side: Best Philly sandwiches since sliced chain bread

» More Most Viewed

- The Elephant in the Room: In praise of Catholic priests who dare to teach and enforce
- On the Side: Best Philly sandwiches since sliced chain bread
- Police officer wounded, gunman killed in shootout
- Pa.'s 'no-frills' college plan intrigues many
- A safety net for fish

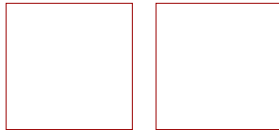
» More Most Emailed

### MOST VIEWED IN THIS SECTION

- Boy, 12, shot; cops eye drug link Screaming mom chased the shooter
- Cops say beauty queen passed bogus \$50s
- Wrestler falls' on hard times, arrested
- Shoot-out leaves gunman dead, cop wounded
- Family of man shot 18 times by police fights on despite setback

### LATEST STORIES IN THIS SECTION

- Shoot-out leaves gunman dead, cop wounded 2:19am  
By DANA DIFILIPPO, JULIE SHAW, DAFNEY TALES & CHRISTINE OLLEY
- Family of man shot 18 times by police fights on despite setback 2:19am  
By JASON NARK
- Students upbeat about school reform plans 2:19am  
By MENSAH M. DEAN
- Latest killing a violent echo for stricken family 2:19am  
By STEPHANIE FARR
- Bullet holes in head not 'natural' 2:19am



ION Audio iDP01 2 Drum Pad Expansio... SamsClub.com  
 Fountain Fresh Fountain/Birdbath Cl... SamsClub.com

discovery by

[Top Jobs](#) | [Top Homes](#) | [Top Cars](#)

**Top Jobs**  
Click to Watch Video

**Mechanic Hvac**  
Philadelphia Housing Authorit...  
**Mechanic - Hvac Specialist**  
Confidential  
**Ms Access/Oracle Programr**  
Confidential  
**Mri Technicians & Ultrasound T**  
Confidential Co

VIEW DETAILS

Get Top Jobs Feed

**Comments**

[Sign in to post a comment](#)

Posted by **aliveandwell** 10:03 AM, 02/26/2009 [Sign in to report abuse](#)  
 Why isn't Ackerman meeting with teachers about her reform plans? That would be a no-brainer.

Posted by **jj5678** 04:43 PM, 02/26/2009 [Sign in to report abuse](#)  
 Aliveandwell...that would make too much sense. I think all the teachers should go to her open forum when she has it that is meant for students and their parents...and blast her with questions. If the teacher's union could organize that, it would be amazing. But it doesn't seem like the union has the teacher's best interest in mind all the time.

Posted by **Time4AChange** 10:47 PM, 02/26/2009 [Sign in to report abuse](#)  
 All the time? Most of the time the PFT are too busy making excuses as to why they can't do anything for the teachers. They are going the way of the Chicago teachers union, that is why Arne Duncan was able to shut down so many schools out there. Just wait till Ackerman and her minions get done with Philly.

3 comments

**Register to Comment**

Why are we asking you to register? We've made some changes to the Philly.com commenting system to increase the quality of the user experience and dialogue, and reduce the number of inappropriate or offensive posts. You're now required to have a registered username and account before adding a comment. This will improve the comments for everyone. We apologize for the inconvenience. **Join the conversation!**

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

**Already Registered? Sign In**

Email Address   
 Password



[Forgot Password?](#)

[SIGN IN](#)

SEARCH JOBS  [find >](#)

<p><b>Rittenhouse Square</b></p> <p>\$799,900 2200-28 Arch St #1209</p>	<p><b>Southwark</b></p> <p>\$410,000 736 Clymer St</p>
---	--

FOR SALE  [find >](#)

<p><b>Volkswagen Passat 20T 2006</b></p>  <p>\$16,850 North Penn Imports Vw Mazda (877) 762-8158</p>	<p><b>Volkswagen GTI 20T 2006</b></p>  <p>\$18,900 North Penn Imports Vw Mazda (877) 762-8158</p>
---	--

SEARCH CARS  [find >](#)

**Sponsored Links**

**\$12,000 Stimulus Checks**  
 I Got a \$12,000 Stimulus Check in Less Than 7 Days. Get Yours.  
[www.JeffreysGrantBlog.com](http://www.JeffreysGrantBlog.com)

**Philadelphia Estate Planning Attorney**  
 Dougherty Law Offices; Philadelphia Estate Planning Attorney.  
[doughertylawoffices.com](http://doughertylawoffices.com)

**1 Rule of a Flat Stomach:**  
 Cut down 25 lbs of stomach fat in 1 month by obeying this 1 rule.  
[Tanyasdietblog.com](http://Tanyasdietblog.com)

**LEN'S AUTO**

LEN'S AUTO

**Expo**

Pet Expo

**INTERNATIONAL GEM & JEWELRY SHOW**

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE AT:

**INQUIRER & DAILY NEWS MERCHANDISE**



Buy **Inquirer, Daily News & Philly** merchandise here including:

- [Books](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Page Reprints](#)
- [Photo Licensing](#)
- [Photos](#)

**TICKET OFFERS**

**COMCAST TIX**

- [Sesame Street Live](#)
- [Frank Caliendo](#)
- [Lewis Black](#)

**OTHER OFFERS**

- [Jimmy Buffett](#)
- [Bruce Springsteen](#)
- [Kenny Chesney](#)

**HOWARD GOLDMAN LAW OFFICE**

DIVORCE

**CAT SHOW NJ**

CAT SHOW  
CLARION HOTEL  
CHERRY HILL  
FEB 28 & MARCH 1

**PHILLY.COM:** [News](#) | [What's Happening](#) | [Sports](#) | [Restaurants & Food](#) | [Arts & Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Green](#) | [Business](#) | [Video](#) | [Opinion](#)

**SITE SERVICES:** [Advertise on Philly.com](#) | [View print ads and special sections](#) | [Mobile Edition](#) | [The e-Inquirer](#) | [Join Our Team](#) | [News In Education](#)

**THE INQUIRER:** [News](#) | [Front Page](#) | [Sports](#) | [Business](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Arts & Entertainment](#) | [Food, Home & Life](#) | [Health & Science](#) | [Education](#) | [Opinion](#) | [Blogs & Columns](#) | [Subscriber Services](#)

**DAILY NEWS:** [City & Local](#) | [Sports](#) | [Yo! Features](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Daily News Opinion](#) | [Photos](#) | [Multimedia](#) | [National News](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [Subscriber Services](#)

**CLASSIFIEDS:** [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Rentals](#) | [Marketplace](#) | [Celebrations](#)

**PARTNERS:** [Phrequency](#) | [The Trend](#) | [Active Adult Housing](#) | [Beach and Bay Homes](#) | [Homes and Living](#) | [Homes and Living - Ocean County](#) | [Communities Magazine](#) | [Employment Weekly](#) | [Taste of Philadelphia](#) | [Parade Magazine](#)

[Philadelphia Newspapers' Reorganization](#) | [About Philly.com](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [Copyright 2009](#)

Latest News Feed All RSS Feeds