

Derrick Lopez currently serves as the Chief of High School Reform for the Pittsburgh Public Schools. In that role, he is charged with shepherding the mission of *Excel.9-12, The Plan for High School Excellence*.

Mr. Lopez is a licensed member of the State Bar of Michigan, and he served as the Principal of Berkley High School located in Berkley Michigan. He, therefore, brings to the District extensive experience as an administrator, organizational director and teacher. Within his eight years of experience as a principal, Mr. Lopez has worked in urban and suburban districts with students from different socio-economical, racial ethnicities and religious backgrounds. This experience lends to his understanding of what it means to put forth a system that works so that all children are successful.

Mr. Lopez became Principal at Berkley High School with its 1,300 students in 2004. Committed to continuous improvement and growth, Mr. Lopez implemented a Professional Learning Community. Teacher and staff leadership were fostered by devoting staff meetings to professional development, modifying the academic calendar and incorporating common planning periods for the development of curriculum and assessments. Mr. Lopez additionally changed the role of the school's counselors from just scheduling classes to developing meaningful relationships with students by implementing the Comprehensive Model of High School Counseling. During his tenure as Principal to the 800 students at the Highland Park Community High School located in Michigan, Mr. Lopez initiated the 9th Grade Academy. The Academy was an orientation for the transition of freshmen students into their high school experience. As Principal of the Marvin L. Winans Academy for Performing Arts, Mr. Lopez viewed the arts as integrated, academics discipline through which students develop habits of mind and practices that lead to their overall improvement. Through their arts interest, he worked with his staff to improve academic performance. Accordingly, each of these roles informs Mr. Lopez' approach to the District's overarching goal of *Excellence for All*.