

# PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

## City teachers union to aid free tuition fund

By Bill Zlatos  
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The first contribution to The Pittsburgh Promise, a program that guarantees free post-secondary tuition to graduates of Pittsburgh Public Schools, is coming from their teachers.

Mayor Luke Ravenstahl and John Tarka, president of the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers, will hold a news conference at 11:30 a.m. today at the union's South Side headquarters to announce the teachers' participation. Although Tarka would not disclose the amount before the meeting, Ravenstahl called it "symbolic progress."

"We recognize The Pittsburgh Promise is a promise to continue to improve the school district, and the teachers support this kind of effort to provide help to students," Tarka said Tuesday.

The union's donation will come from Quality Educational Standards in Teaching, a fund established 35 years ago to provide scholarships to city students interested in becoming teachers. Tarka said the fund has given \$150,000 in scholarships over the years.

"It's a nice message, and it shows their understanding of the importance of The Promise and their commitment to the district's future," said city schools Superintendent Mark Roosevelt.

At a meeting yesterday of the city school board's Education Committee, Roosevelt called The Pittsburgh Promise a key initiative in the district's plan to improve the high schools. He and Ravenstahl announced the program last month.

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