

# **2018 NEW STUDENT APPLICATION**

Priority Deadline: February 9, 2018 Regular Deadline: March 2, 2018

Breakthrough Pittsburgh, formerly Summerbridge Pittsburgh, is a tuition-free, **six-year academic enrichment program** committed to supporting academically motivated, but under-resourced middle and high school students to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high school programs and attend a four-year college. Operating under a six-year model, programming for students and families begins the summer before 7th grade and continues during the school year and throughout high school.

# **Application Checklist**

Steps:	To be completed by:
<ul> <li><b>1. Student Statement</b> <ul> <li>Student Information</li> <li>Short Answers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Student
<ul> <li>2. Family Statement <ul> <li>Family Information</li> <li>Free or Reduced Lunch Application</li> <li>Short Answers</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Parent/Guardian
<b>3. Release of Records Form</b> Please complete this form and have your student take it to the school counselor or principal.	Parent/Guardian (Give to Principal or Counselor)
<b>4. Guidance Counselor or Principal Form</b> Give these forms to the school counselor or principal.	Counselor or Principal
<b>5. Two Teacher Reference Forms</b> Give these forms to two teachers who know your student well.	Two Teachers that know the student well

Please mail applications to: Breakthrough Pittsburgh,



DUE: March 2, 2018 315 Academy Avenue, Sewickley, PA 15143



## Frequently Asked Questions:

### What is Breakthrough Pittsburgh?

Breakthrough Pittsburgh is a **tuition free, six-year academic enrichment program** for highly motivated, under-resourced middle and high school students who plan to attend a four-year college.

### When should my student apply to Breakthrough?

Interested students apply during their 6<sup>th</sup> grade school-year. This year, there are a few spots for the current class of 2023; therefore, 7<sup>th</sup> grade students may also apply.

### Who are Breakthrough Students?

Breakthrough students are highly motivated and under-resourced students who have above-average grades, are good citizens in their schools, and are committed to attend a four-year college. Breakthrough students embrace hard work, challenging tasks, and honest feedback. They support and encourage their peers, are excited to explore and learn new things, and set goals and meet them.

### What is the commitment?

Breakthrough is a six-year commitment and families are expected to participate actively in the program starting with the summer before 7<sup>th</sup> grade and continue through the end of their student's senior year in high school.

	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Summer Program	6-Week Pr	ogram	3-Week Program		College Week	
Academic and ACT/S					g	
ar	Five Super Saturdays Individual College Workshops					ege Workshops
Program	High School Options Meetings College Bound Mentors					
	College Tours					
			BT Staff V	isits Students in Schoo	bl	

### Is it okay to miss a few days of the summer program for a vacation?

Attendance in the summer program is **mandatory**, except in cases of illness. With a limited number of days in the summer program, students who are absent will fall behind quickly and miss valuable instruction. If your family is planning an extended vacation and your student will miss more than three academic days, you should talk to the BT staff before applying to see how we can make it work.



### After our family submits an application, what's next?

Within two weeks of the deadline, you will know if you are invited for an interview. Applications received by the priority deadline may be invited to an interview on February 24 and April 7 for the regular deadline. After interviews, final decision letters with be mailed by March 9 for priority deadline and April 27 for all other applicants. Interviews take place at Sewickley Academy. If you have concerns about the date or location of the interview, please call to discuss with the BT staff.

### Where is Breakthrough Pittsburgh?

The Breakthrough Pittsburgh office and the summer program are located at Sewickley Academy, 315 Academy Avenue, Sewickley, PA 15143. However, we occasionally hold Breakthrough meetings and events at libraries, the University of Pittsburgh, and in school buildings around the city.

### Is transportation provided?

Due to our location and limited funds, we are able to provide transportation for the following areas: Pittsburgh city limits, Coraopolis, Stowe Township, McKees Rocks, or Sewickley. Students who live outside of these neighborhoods may apply, but will be responsible for transportation to and from an existing bus stop or Sewickley Academy.

### When is the application due?

Priority deadline applications are due February 9. Priority applicants will find out in mid-February whether or not they have moved to the second round of the admissions process. The regular deadline is March 2 and applicants will find out by mid-March whether they have moved to the next round. Any application received after March 2 will be put on a waitlist. The earlier you complete your application, the better!

### How do I submit my student's application?

Applications can be mailed, scanned and emailed, or faxed to the Breakthrough office by the deadline. If you scan or fax the application to ensure it meets a deadline, please mail the hard copy to the BT office. Some school counselors may collect applications at the school and mail them for you. Check with your counselor about this option.

### Any important advice?

Breakthrough Pittsburgh is a selective program which means that there are many strong applicants who submit applications, only 30-35 students are selected for each class. Regardless of admission, you can learn a lot about yourself by applying. Put in your best effort. Be yourself and have fun!



# **1. STUDENT STATEMENT**

*Students, please use a <u>pen</u> to fill out the application in YOUR OWN HANDWRITING. Remember to print clearly. Thank you!* 

### STUDENT INFORMATION:

FIRST NAME:	MIDDLE NAME:	_	LAST NAME:		
DATE OF BIRTH: (month/day	y/year)		GENDER: _		
NAME OF CURRENT SCHOO	L:			GRADE:	

Please list the names of the two teachers to whom you will give reference forms, as well as the name of your counselor or principal who will be sending your grades:

1. TEACHER'S NAME:	EMAIL:
2. TEACHER'S NAME:	EMAIL:
3. GUIDANCE COUNSELOR/PRINCIPAL NAME:	

### SHORT-ANSWERS: Please write 3-4 full sentences to answer each question.

1. Breakthrough students attend a six-week summer program, five days of Super Saturdays throughout the school year, and commit to high academic expectations throughout high school. This is a big commitment. Explain why you want to spend your summers and occasional Saturdays at Breakthrough for many years. What are you hoping to gain?

2. Of the books you read in the past year, which one made the biggest impression on you and why?



3. What are your future goals? How is attending college going to help you reach these goals?

4. Tell us about a time when you were confronted with a difficult academic challenge. How did you deal with it?



# 2. Family Statement: Contact Information

STUDENT'S NAME:				
First	Last			
PARENT/GUARDIAN 1:	Last			
Relationship to Student:  □ Mother □ Father □ Stepmothe	r 🗆 Stepfather 🛛 Guardian 🗆 Other:			
Home Address:				
City	State Zip			
Home Telephone:	Work Telephone:			
Cell Phone:	Email Address:			
Preferred Method of Contact:	□ Cell Phone □ Text Message □ Email			
Occupation:	Employed by:			
<b>Completed Education:</b> □ High School/GED □ Associates □	Bachelor's Degree 🛛 Graduate Degree 🗆 Doctorate Degree			
PARENT/GUARDIAN 2:	Last			
Relationship to Student:  □ Mother  □ Father  □ Stepmothe	r 🗆 Stepfather 🛛 Guardian 🗆 Other:			
Check here if parent/guardian 2 has same address as above:				
If different home address:				
	Street			
City	State Zip			
Home Telephone: W	/ork Telephone:			
Cell Phone: E	mail Address:			
Preferred Method of Contact:	□ Cell Phone □ Text Message □ Email			
Occupation: E	mployed by:			

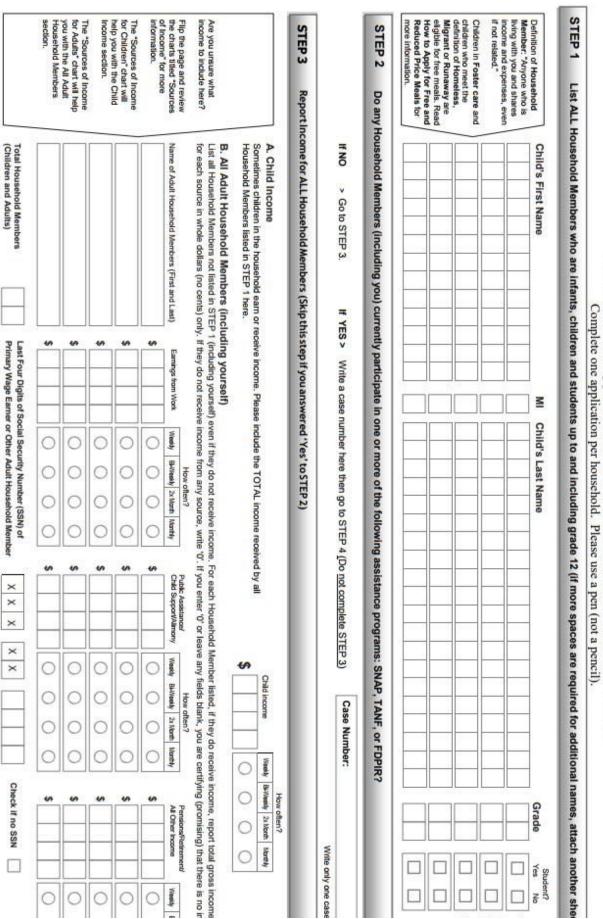
Completed Education: 
□ High School/GED □ Associates □ Bachelor's Degree □ Graduate Degree □ Doctorate Degree



STUDENT'S NAM	E:			
	First		Last	
With whom is th	e student currently living?			
	Parent/Guardian 1 only	Parent/Guardian 2 only	Both (joint custody)	
	Other : Name and relations	ship to student:		
If parents/guardi	ians do not live together, who s	should official Breakthrough/ac	ademic information be sent to?	
	Parent/Guardian 1 only	Parent/Guardian 2 only	Both (joint custody)	
	Other : Name and relations	ship to student:		
Which parent is t	financially responsible for the s	tudent?		
	Parent/Guardian 1 only	Parent/Guardian 2 only	Both (joint custody)	
	Other : Name and relations	ship to student:		
Languages (other than English) spoken in the student's home:				
Of the	ese, which is the student's prim	nary language:		
<b>Does your student have a sibling who is a current or former BT Student?</b>				

# Free or Reduced Lunch Application (Next Two Pages):

Breakthrough seeks to increase educational opportunities for highly-motivated middle and high school students. We ask about family income to help us assess whether your family might have access to other opportunities aside from our program. Breakthrough assesses the whole student, and your financial information is only one piece of the student profile. Your answers do not necessarily determine eligibility for the program.



# 2018 Household Application for Free and Reduced Price Summer Meals Complete one application per household. Please use a pen (not a pencil).

STEP 4 Contact information and adult signature

T certify (promise) that all information on this application is true and that all income is reported. I understand that this information is given in connection with the receipt of Federal funds, and that officials may verify (check) the information. I am aware that if I purp information, my children may lose meal benefits, and I may be prosecuted under applicable State and Federal laws."



Sources of Income for Children     Signature       me     Example(s)     Earnings from Work       A child has a regular full or part-time job where they earn a salary or wages     Salary, wages, cash bonuses       A child is blind or disabled and receives Social Security benefits     - A child receives Social Security benefits       A Parent is disabled, retired, or deceased, and their child receives Social Security benefits     - Net income from self- employment (farm or business)       a their child receives a child spending money     If you are in the U.S. Military:       urce     - A child receives regular income from a private pension fund, annuity, or trust	(s) ar full or part-time job alary or wages abled and receives Social , retired, or deceased, and cial Security benefits d family member Id spending money gular income from a , annuity, or trust
nings from Work wages, cash rme from self- int (farm or in the U.S. Military in the U.S. Military and cash bonuses aude combat pay, vatized housing stor off-base and clothing	nings from Work wages, cash me from self- int (farm or and cash bonuses slude combat pay, vatized housing s for off-base and clothing
	Ources of Income for Ad         Public Assistance /         Alimony / Child Support         - Unemployment benefits         - Supplemental Security         Income (SSI)         - Cash assistance from         State or local         government         - Alimony payments         - Child support payments         - Strike benefits

We are required to ask for information about your children's race and ethnicity. This information is important and helps to make sure we are fully serving our community. Responding to this section is optional and does not affect your children's eligibility for free or reduced price meals.

Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Race (check one or more): American Indian or Alaskan Native Ethnicity (check one): Hispanic or Latino Not Hispanic or Latino Asian

program reviews, and law enforcement officials to help them look into violations of program rules. behalf of a foster child or you list a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary not have to give the information, but if you do not, we cannot approve your child for free or reduced price nutrition programs to help them evaluate, fund, or determine benefits for their programs, auditors for the lunch and breakfast programs. We MAY share your eligibility information with education, health, and determine if your child is eligible for free or reduced price meals, and for administration and enforcement of member signing the application does not have a social security number. We will use your information to (FDPIR) case number or other FDPIR identifier for your child or when you indicate that the adult household Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Program or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations signs the application. The last four digits of the social security number is not required when you apply on meals. You must include the last four digits of the social security number of the adult household member who The Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act requires the information on this application. You do

disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex. In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations

available in languages other than English. through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information ma applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may or To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complai

large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information

request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\_filing\_cust.html, and at any USDA of write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form

U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW

mail

- Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (202) 690-7442; or

tax:

- email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- This institution is an equal opportunity provider







# 2. Family Statement: Short Answers

First

Last

Family involvement is an **essential** part of Breakthrough. If your student is accepted to the program, you will be expected to make this program a priority for the next six years.

What are your student's interests and/or extracurricular commitments?

How do you actively participate in your student's education?

Why would you like to see your student involved in Breakthrough Pittsburgh? Where do you see your student in six years?

Breakthrough demands a dedicated commitment on behalf of both the student and the family. Your student will be challenged during his/her experience. Please explain a time when you helped your student push through a challenging task.

What do you love about your student? What would you like us to know about them?



### 4. Release of Records Form

Please complete this form and have your student take it to the SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR or PRINCIPAL.

To:

(Name of your student's school counselor or principal)

My Student:

(Name of your student)

The student above is applying to **BREAKTHROUGH PITTSBURGH**, a tuition-free, six-year academic enrichment program committed to supporting academically motivated, but under-resourced middle and high school students to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high school programs and attend a four-year college.

### Please release a copy of my student's transcripts to Breakthrough Pittsburgh.

Please mail, email, or fax my student's transcripts no later than March 2, 2018 to:

BREAKTHROUGH PITTSBURGH 315 Academy Avenue Sewickley, PA 15143

Email: gcarl@sewickley.org Fax: 412-741-1411 Phone: 412-741-2230 ext. 3143

Parent or Guardian Signature

Date

Parent or Guardian Name (PRINT)



## 5. Guidance Counselor/Principal Form

Breakthrough Pittsburgh, formerly Summerbridge Pittsburgh, is a tuition-free, six-year academic enrichment program committed to supporting academically motivated, but under-resourced middle and high school students to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high school programs and attend a four-year college. Operating under a six-year model, programming for students and families begins the summer before 7th grade and continues during the school year and throughout high school. Breakthrough also prepares the next generation of educators by recruiting and training outstanding high school and college students to become Breakthrough teachers and encouraging them to pursue careers in education and youth-service.

STUDENT'S NAME:			
	First	Middle	Last
NAME OF COUNSELOR/PRINCI	PAL:		
SCHOOL NAME:			
Please mail, email, or fax this f	orm no later than March 2, 2018	to:	
BREAKTHROUGH PITTSBURGH		Email: gcarl@sewickley.org	
315 Academy Avenue		Fax: 412-741-1411	
Sewickley, PA 15143		Phone: 412-741-2230 ext. 3143	
PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOW Does the student parti	ING INFORMATION: cipate in advanced or honors class	sses?	
□ yes	🗆 no		
Does the student have	a GIEP and/or attend the Pittsbu	rgh Gifted Center?	
🗆 yes	🗆 no		
Does the student have	an IEP and/or receive in-school I	earning support?	
□ yes	□ no		
If yes, please explain: _			

Breakthrough students are asked to commit to a six-year rigorous academic enrichment program that will challenge them to maintain a high standard of excellence. Please comment on this student and family's ability to commit to such a program.



Breakthrough Pittsburgh • 315 Academy Avenue, Sewickley, PA 15143 • 412.741.2230 ext. 3143 gcarl@sewickley.org • www.breakthroughpittsburgh.org • fax: 412.741.1411



# 6. Teacher Reference Form TEACHER 1

Breakthrough Pittsburgh, formerly Summerbridge Pittsburgh, is a tuition-free, **six-year academic enrichment program** committed to supporting academically motivated, but under-resourced middle and high school students to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high school programs and attend a four-year college. Operating under a six-year model, programming for students and families begins the summer before 7th grade and continues during the school year and throughout high school. Breakthrough also prepares the next generation of educators by recruiting and training outstanding high school and college students to become Breakthrough teachers and encouraging them to pursue careers in education and youth-service.

We would appreciate your candid responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions regarding the program, please call the Breakthrough Office at 412-741-2230 ext. 3143.

Please mail, email, or fax this form no later than March 2, 2018 to:

BREAKTHROUGH PITTSBURGH	Email: gcarl@sewickley.org
315 Academy Avenue	Fax: 412-741-1411
Sewickley, PA 15143	Phone: 412-741-2230 ext. 3143

### Thank you for your help with this process!

Student's Name:School:Teacher's Name:Subject(s):

□ I prefer not to fill out this form and will discuss this student over the telephone with the Breakthrough staff at (412) 741-2230 ext. 3143.

Breakthrough students are asked to commit to a six-year rigorous academic enrichment program that will challenge them to maintain a high standard of excellence. Please comment on this student and family's ability to commit to such a program.

Teacher Signature	Date			
Work phone number	Work email address	$OVER \rightarrow$		
Breakthrough Pittsburgh ● 315 Academy Avenue, Sewickley, PA 15143 ● 412.741.2230 ext. 3143 gcarl@sewickley.org ● www.breakthroughpittsburgh.org ● fax: 412.741.1411				



Please circle the response that best suits the student in relation to the other students you teach.

	KEY	
1 = No Basis for Judgement	2 = Below Average	3=Average
4 = Above Average	5 = Excellent	

### Student's skill level in your class:

□ Very Advanced □ Adv	vanced	Proficient     Other
Supports and encourages peers	12345	Thinks through challenging tasks 1 2 3 4 5
Adapts to new challenges	12345	Has motivation to go above and beyond 1 2 3 4 5
Demonstrates humility	12345	Seeks ways to help self and community 1 2 3 4 5
Embraces honest feedback	12345	Communicates respectfully with adults and peers 1 2 3 4 5
Open to new ideas and change	12345	Takes positive risks/steps outside comfort zone 1 2 3 4 5

### I recommend this student to the BREAKTHROUGH PITTSBURGH program

with great enthusiasm
 with reservation

□ with confidence □ I do not recommend

 $\Box$  with some confidence

### Please comment on your response:

What additional information should we know about this student or family before we make this decision?

### Be an Instructional Coach! - Professional Development Opportunity, Summer 2018

Breakthrough instructional coaches provide intensive training, coaching and support to our teaching fellows — top college and high school students from across the country who compete for our prestigious teaching residency. Together, teaching fellows and instructional coaches provide transformative summer learning experiences for under-resourced students, the majority of whom will be the first in their families to graduate from four-year colleges.

For more information about expectations, qualifications, and compensation, please contact Executive Director Carrie Miller at cjmiller@sewickley.org or visit our national affiliate site, https://www.breakthroughcollaborative.org/coach.



# 6. Teacher Reference Form TEACHER 2

Breakthrough Pittsburgh, formerly Summerbridge Pittsburgh, is a tuition-free, **six-year academic enrichment program** committed to supporting academically motivated, but under-resourced middle and high school students to enter and succeed in college-preparatory high school programs and attend a four-year college. Operating under a six-year model, programming for students and families begins the summer before 7th grade and continues during the school year and throughout high school. Breakthrough also prepares the next generation of educators by recruiting and training outstanding high school and college students to become Breakthrough teachers and encouraging them to pursue careers in education and youth-service.

We would appreciate your candid responses, which will be kept confidential. If you have any questions regarding the program, please call the Breakthrough Office at 412-741-2230 ext. 3143.

Please mail, email, or fax this form no later than March 3, 2017 to:

BREAKTHROUGH PITTSBURGHEmail: gcarl@sewickley.org315 Academy AvenueFax: 412-741-1411Sewickley, PA 15143Phone: 412-741-2230 ext. 3143

### Thank you for your help with this process!

Student's Name:School:Teacher's Name:Subject(s):

□ I prefer not to fill out this form and will discuss this student over the telephone with the Breakthrough staff at (412) 741-2230 ext. 3143.

Breakthrough students are asked to commit to a six-year rigorous academic enrichment program that will challenge them to maintain a high standard of excellence. Please comment on this student and family's ability to commit to such a program.

Teacher Signature	Date	
Work phone number	Work email address	$OVER \rightarrow$
Breakthrough Pittsburgh ● 315 Academy Avenue, Sewickle gcarl@sewickley.org ● www.breakthroughpittsb		43



Please circle the response that best suits the student in relation to the other students you teach.

	KEY	
1 = No Basis for Judgement	2 = Below Average	3=Average
4 = Above Average	5 = Excellent	

### Student's skill level in your class:

□ Very Advanced □ Adv	anced	Proficient Other	
Supports and encourages peers	12345	Thinks through challenging tasks	12345
Adapts to new challenges	12345	Has motivation to go above and beyond	12345
Demonstrates humility	12345	Seeks ways to help self and community	12345
Embraces honest feedback	12345	Communicates respectfully with adults and pe	eers 1 2 3 4 5
Open to new ideas and change	12345	Takes positive risks/steps outside comfort zor	ne 12345

### I recommend this student to the BREAKTHROUGH PITTSBURGH program

□ with great enthusiasm □ with reservation □ with confidence □ I do not recommend

 $\Box$  with some confidence

#### Please comment on your response: \_\_\_\_\_

What additional information should we know about this student or family before we make this decision?

### Be an Instructional Coach! - Professional Development Opportunity, Summer 2018

Breakthrough instructional coaches provide intensive training, coaching and support to our teaching fellows — top college and high school students from across the country who compete for our prestigious teaching residency. Together, teaching fellows and instructional coaches provide transformative summer learning experiences for under-resourced students, the majority of whom will be the first in their families to graduate from four-year colleges.

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