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## **U.S. Department of Education Awards Propel \$3.4 Million to Replicate & Expand its High Quality Charter School Model**

**Pittsburgh, PA (September 30, 2010)** – The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Propel Schools with \$3.4 million dollars to help make it possible for Propel to grow and serve more children. Over the next five years, Propel will use federal grant funds to open five new Propel schools in Allegheny County.

Propel is one of twelve elite charter school organizations selected to receive a grant, putting it in the company of nationally recognized leaders such as KIPP, Achievement First, Aspire, Mastery and Uncommon Schools.

The purpose of the Charter School Grants Program, managed by the Department's Office of Innovation and Improvement, is to increase financial support for public charter schools, build a better national understanding of the public charter school model and increase the number of high-quality public charter schools across the nation.

In just eight years, Propel's schools have proven that it is possible to close the achievement gap that typically separate students along lines of race and affluence. Propel students are now more likely to be at grade level than the typical Pennsylvania public school student in both mathematics and reading despite the fact that 75% are classified as economically disadvantaged and 65% are a minority (compared to 40% and 24% statewide).

### **About Propel Schools**

Propel's mission is to catalyze the transformation of public education so that all children have access to high performing public schools. This mission is pursued by opening and operating high performance schools of choice in educationally underserved communities. Propel has grown from serving 180 children in a hospital basement in Homestead, to serving more than 2,000 children across six top performing charter schools. To read more, visit [www.propelschools.org](http://www.propelschools.org)