

Highlights of Propel Student Results



Propel is delivering results. The enclosed charts are a summary of our student results from 2010-2011 state tests. We welcome your questions and encourage you to visit. Come see for yourself what makes Propel a Western Pennsylvania success story.



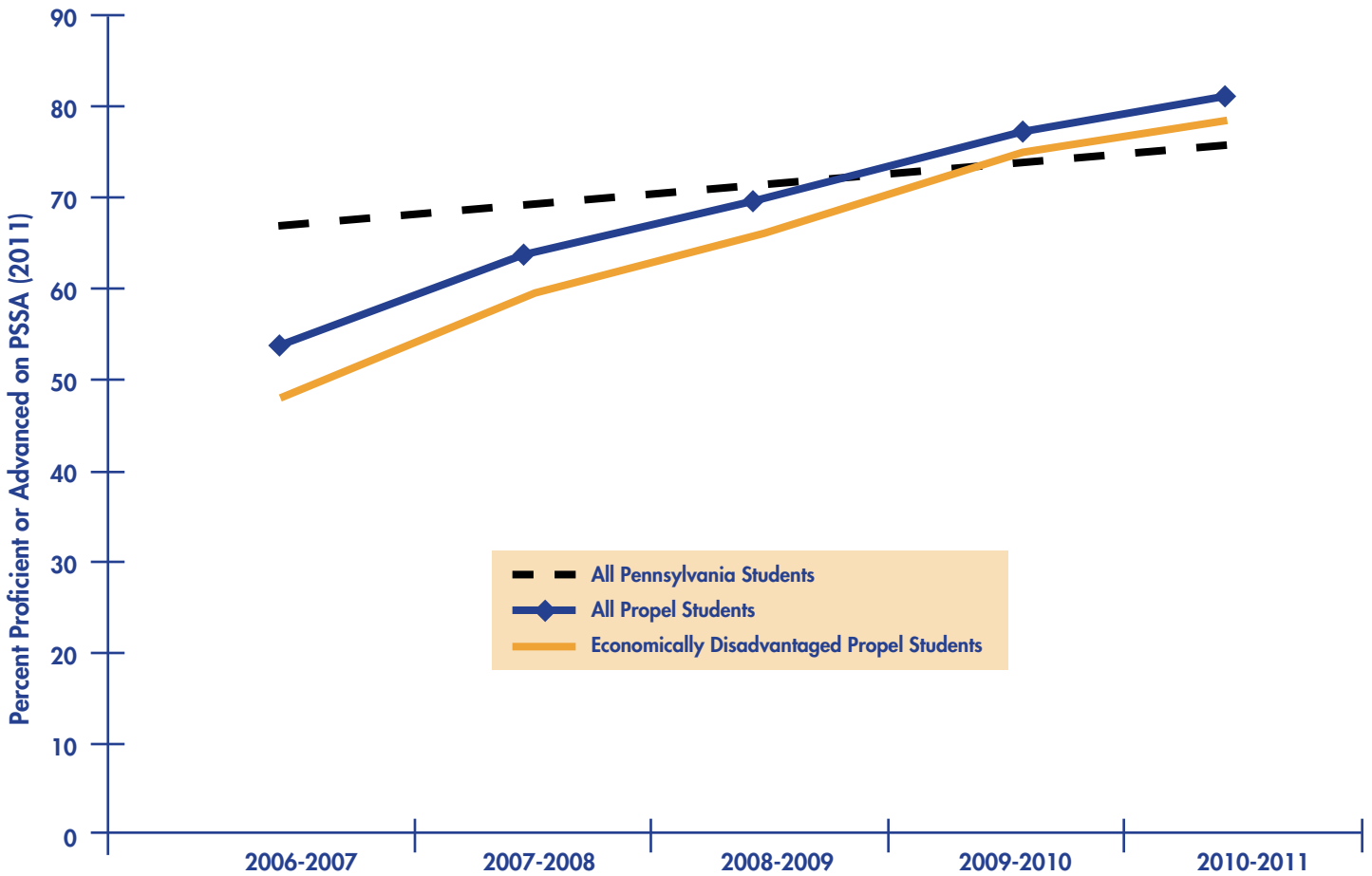
Propel Schools: A Western Pennsylvania Success Story

Propel's mission is to catalyze the transformation of public education so that all children have access to high performing public schools. Over the past nine years, Propel has grown from serving 180 children in a hospital basement in Homestead to serving more than 2,400 children across seven locations in Allegheny County. This year Propel Northside opened, becoming the newest addition to the Propel family.

Propel's impact on the Pittsburgh region continues to grow. Children are coming to Propel from 31 different school districts, most from economically disadvantaged communities where there's little or no public school choice. Across Propel's schools, 75% of students qualify for the federal free/reduced price lunch program, 69% are a minority and 14% have special needs.



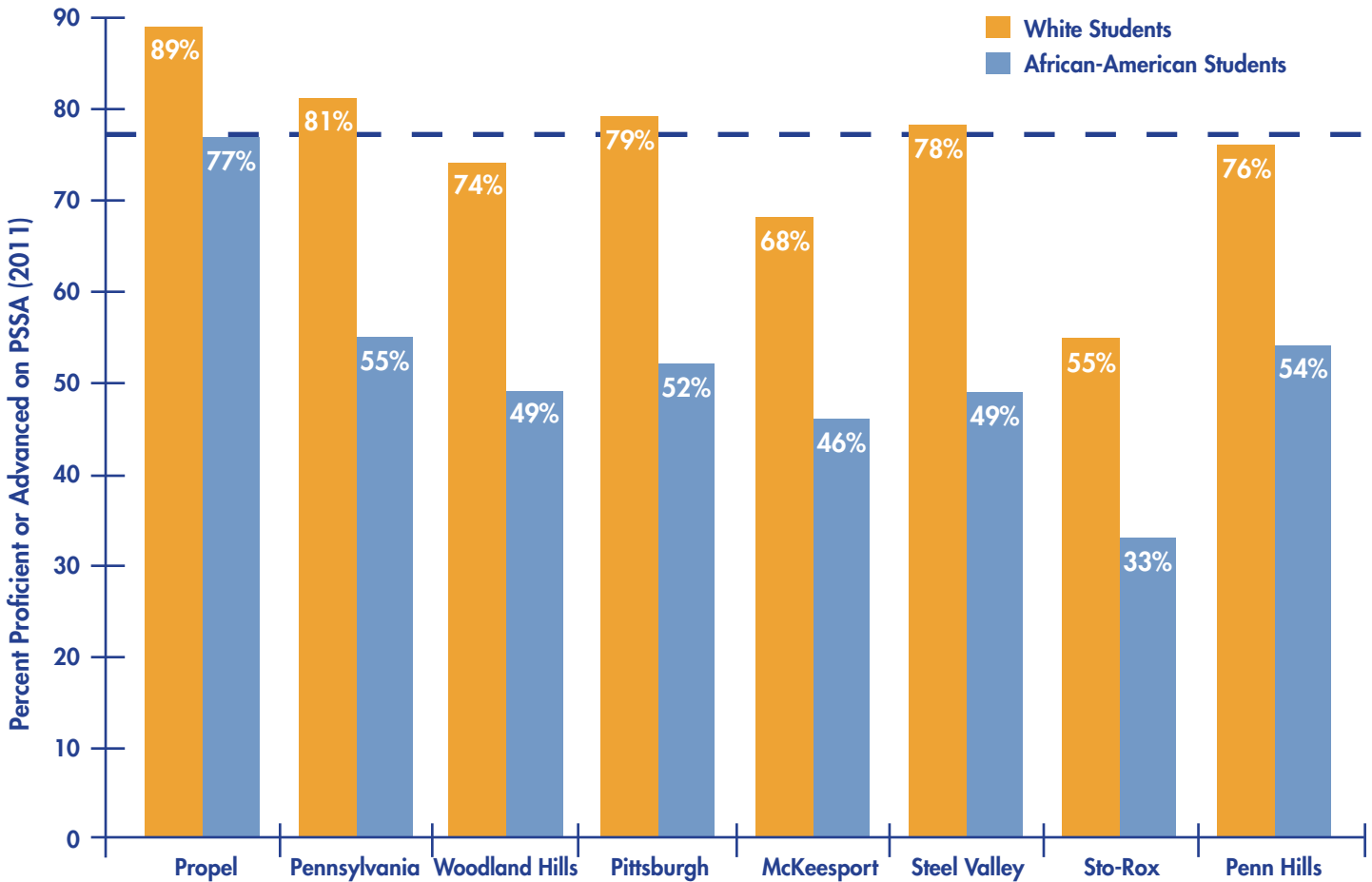
Closing the Achievement Gap



What This Tells Us:

Propel's schools are proving that it is possible to permanently close the achievement gap that separates students along lines of affluence. More than 75% of Propel students are economically disadvantaged compared to just 40% statewide. Nevertheless, the rate at which Propel's students meet or exceed grade level standards continues to surpass state averages (82% vs.76%). In fact, even the performance of Propel's economically disadvantaged students is above that of the overall state population in both reading and math.

African-American Students Achieving

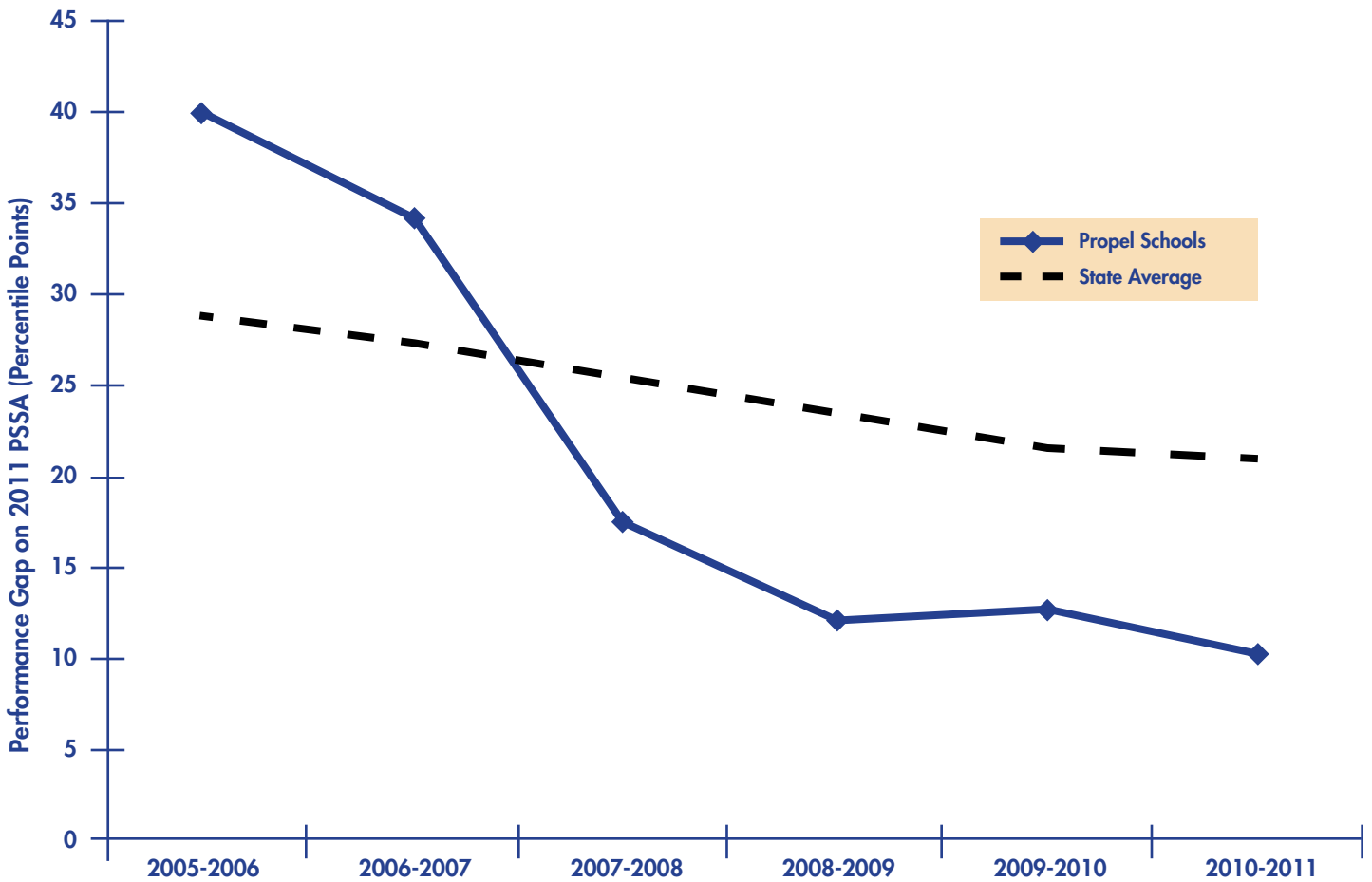


What This Tells Us:

Raising the performance of African-American students is a national priority, and Propel's schools are showing particular success in meeting this challenge.

In fact, Propel's African-American students are performing at levels comparable to white students in school districts across Pennsylvania. In the seven school districts from which Propel draws 84% of its students, African-American students are 60% more likely to be at grade level if attending Propel.

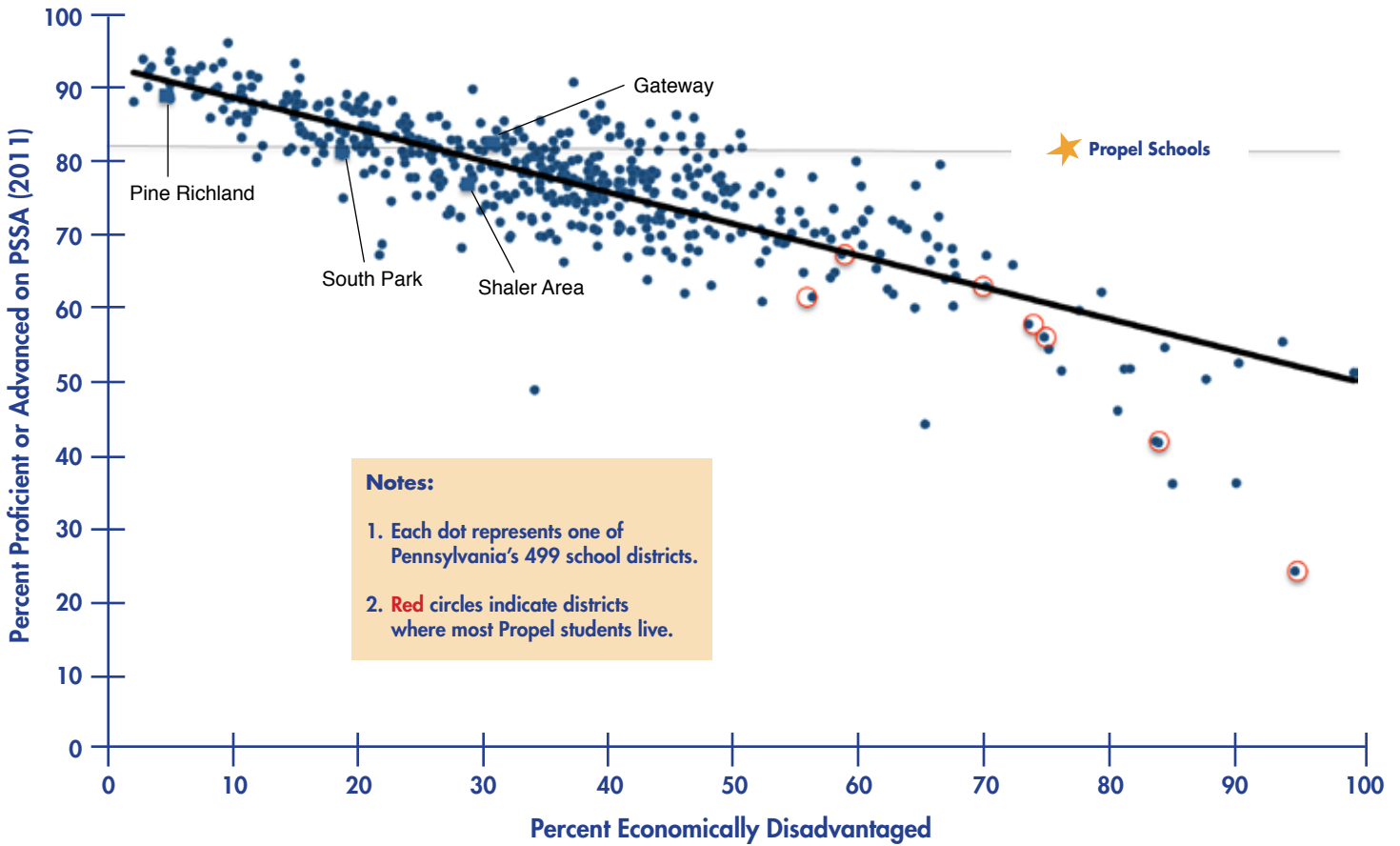
Delivering on Equity



What This Tells Us:

Delivering on equity also means eliminating the gaps that typically separate different student groups within a school or school system. Even as performance levels rise at Propel (scores increased another 4 percentage points this year), the variation in student performance among Propel students continues to decrease. For example, the gap between Propel's white students and Propel's students of color has dropped to 10 percentage points. Across Pennsylvania, test performance of minority students trails that of white students by 21 percentage points.

Defying Expectations

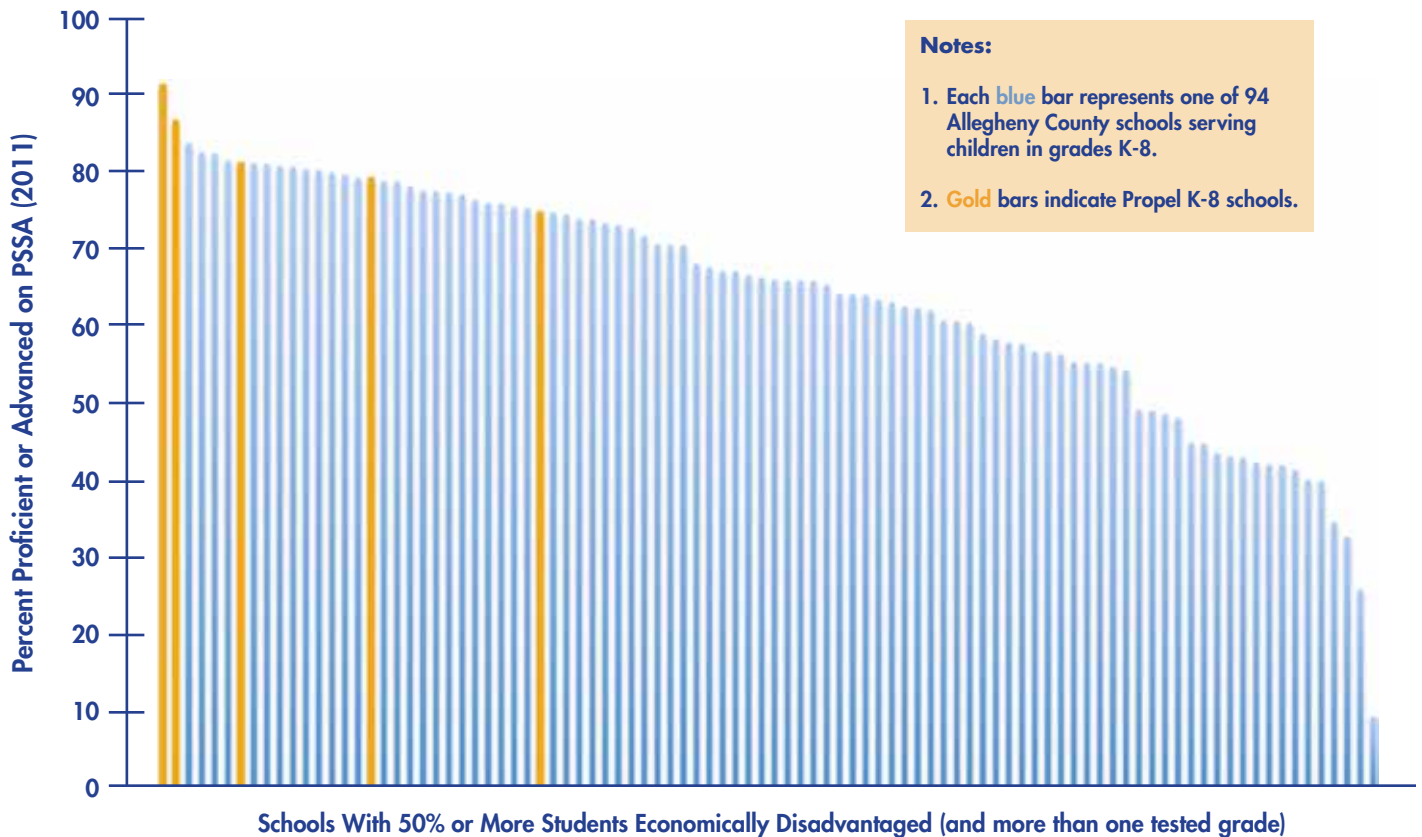


What This Tells Us:

Student performance on state tests is highly correlated with family poverty. This is particularly true in Allegheny County. Propel students are showing that this need not be so. Propel students perform on par with solidly middle-class suburban districts.

When school district performance is adjusted to control for the incidence of poverty, Propel is the top performing district in Pennsylvania.

Demonstrating Quality at Scale



What This Tells Us:

Propel is demonstrating that it is possible to build a system of schools serving challenging populations where quality is the rule, not the exception. Propel's strong performance reflects strength across all of its K-8 schools. Among Allegheny County schools with moderate or greater poverty impact (and serving children in that grade span), three of the top ten performers are Propel schools, and all Propel schools are in the top third.



Inspiring Achievement

Six Promising Principles and a collection of related Powerful Practices provide the framework that undergirds Propel's achievements. Propel teachers and educators have arrived at these Principles after several years of reflection on what lies behind their remarkable success with the students they serve. The Principles provide a common language for sharing what is uniquely Propel both with teachers new to Propel and with educators at other schools. As a result, the vision set forth by Propel's founders almost a decade ago—of operating high performing public schools for families who would not otherwise have access to them and of doing so on a sustainable and replicable basis—is being realized.

Propel's Promising Principles

- ★ Agile Instruction
- ★ Embedded Support
- ★ Culture of Dignity
- ★ Fully Valued Arts Program
- ★ Vibrant Teaching Communities
- ★ Quest for Excellence.



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