



3447 East Carson St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
Phone: 412-325-7305 • Fax: 412-325-7309  
[www.propelschools.org](http://www.propelschools.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Kelly Wall  
Propel Schools  
412-325-7305 ext. 1430  
[kellywall@propelschools.org](mailto:kellywall@propelschools.org)

## **Propel Pilots New Wellness Program to Help Students Succeed**

*— Mental wellness initiative provides dedicated support system for students and families —*

**Pittsburgh, Nov. 17, 2016** – With challenges both inside and beyond the classroom often affecting student performance, Propel Schools is leading a new school based mental wellness initiative to help students at all grade levels achieve academic success by providing real-time counseling and integrated support services to help them cope with a wide range of issues.

In partnership with TCV Community Services, Propel Partners in Wellness (PPIW) is being piloted in three schools for the 2016-2017 year: Propel Braddock Hills High School (9-12), Propel Homestead (K-8) and Propel Northside (K-8). The comprehensive mental wellness support system is designed to remove barriers to education by providing direct care services for students and families within the schools. Each pilot school has a full-time clinician and prevention specialist on site five days a week. Propel staff also receive ongoing professional training and development.

“Twenty percent of children in our country are impacted by mental wellness issues that can hinder their academic success, socialization skills and the ability to meet current and future challenges,” said Dr. Tina Chekan, superintendent and CEO, Propel Schools. “With Propel Partners in Wellness, we want to ensure that our all of students have the tools, guidance and skills they need to become positive citizens, successful adults and lifelong learners.”

Professionals from TCV Community Services are integrated into Propel’s culture from day one, building a community of trust with students, families, staff and school leadership. The direct care services range from classroom lessons about positive communication and skill building to private outpatient counseling to referred students and families.

“Having Propel Partners In Wellness in our Northside building has allowed us to meet the need of the whole child as well as the family, said Robert Powell, Principal, Propel Northside. “The



3447 East Carson St. • Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
Phone: 412-325-7305 • Fax: 412-325-7309  
[www.propelschools.org](http://www.propelschools.org)

specialized training we've received through this program has given our staff the advanced skills to identify the varying needs of our students and help families to obtain the most appropriate interventions. As a principal, I am happy to see a two pronged approach – extra assistance to my students and advanced professional development for my staff.”

Expansion of the program to other Propel locations is expected during the upcoming school years.

### **About Propel Schools**

*Propel Schools, based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to catalyze the transformation of public education so that all children have access to high performing public schools. Propel has become one of the largest, fastest-expanding sets of charter schools in the state, with high levels of student achievement among Pennsylvania public school districts supporting undeserved communities. Propel is serving 3,700 students this year at 11 Allegheny County locations. Visit [www.propelschools.org](http://www.propelschools.org) to learn more*

###

---