



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Propel's Technology Instruction Recognized by Common Sense Education**

PITTSBURGH, PA (November 11, 2019)—Common Sense, the national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids and families thrive in a world of media and technology, has recognized Propel Schools, a network of 13 public charter schools, as a Common Sense District for the 2018-2020 school years. This marks the third consecutive honor for Propel. Only 10 districts in Pennsylvania were awarded.

Propel has demonstrated its commitment to taking a whole-community approach to preparing its scholars to think critically and use technology responsibly to learn, create, and participate, while preparing them for the perils that exist in the online realm, such as plagiarism, loss of privacy, and cyberbullying. With the right support, kids can take ownership of their digital lives, engage with real issues, and change their communities for the better. The recognition acknowledges our commitment to creating a culture of digital citizenship.

"We're honored to be recognized as a Common Sense School," said CEO/Superintendent Dr. Tina Chekan. "We believe that part of preparing our scholars for a successful future is empowering them to utilize technology in ways that can improve the world in which they live."

"We applaud the faculty and staff of Propel Schools for embracing digital citizenship as an important part of their students' education," said Liz Kline, vice president of education programs at Common Sense Education. "Propel deserves high praise for giving its students the foundational skills they need to compete and succeed in the 21st-century workplace and participate ethically in society at large."

Propel has been using Common Sense Education's innovative and research-based digital citizenship resources, which were created in collaboration with researchers from Project Zero, led by Howard Gardner at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, and are grounded in the real issues students and teachers face. The resources teach students, educators, and parents tangible skills related to internet safety, protecting online reputations and personal privacy, media balance, managing online relationships, and media literacy. The free K–12 curriculum is used in classrooms across all 50 states, in more than 65,000 schools by more than 750,000 educators.

To learn more about the criteria Propel met to become recognized as a Common Sense School, visit <https://www.commonsense.org/education/recognition-schools>.

### **About Propel Schools**

Propel Schools is a network of public charter schools that transforms the lives of children in underserved communities through innovative, student-centered learning. Propel sets a standard for creating productive citizens by prioritizing academic excellence and fundamental life skills. Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Propel has become one of the largest, fastest-expanding charter school organizations since it was established in 2003. Today, Propel serves 4,000 students at 13 Allegheny County locations. Visit [propelschools.org](http://propelschools.org) to learn more.

### **About Common Sense Education**

Common Sense Education supports K–12 schools with free, timely, and research-based resources for teaching in the digital age. We believe that learning digital life skills is essential for students to thrive in today's world and that all students should have access to learning these skills. That's why we make our digital citizenship resources available



for free, ready for any educator to plug into tomorrow's lesson plan. Our core resources include a comprehensive K–12 Digital Citizenship Curriculum, all-inclusive reviews of the most popular and latest edtech tools, and expert advice on how to use those tools most effectively in the classroom. Over half a million educators in nearly half of K–12 U.S. schools use our resources to teach kids digital life skills. We're excited to keep that number growing so all of our kids can thrive in the digital age.

Common Sense is the leading independent nonprofit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a world of media and technology. Every day, Common Sense supports parents, teachers, and policymakers with unbiased information, innovative tools, and trusted advice to support kids' digital well-being. To see all of Common Sense Education's resources, visit <https://www.commonsense.org/education>.

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