

Propel Schools Foundation

Jeremy Resnick
3447 East Carson Street, Suite 200
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
P: (412) 325-7305
JResnick@propelschools.org

Abstract

The Propel Schools Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pa. seeks funding from the U.S. Department of Education’s “Replication and Expansion of High-Quality Charter Schools” grant program to support expansion of one existing Propel K-8 school (by adding a high school); replication of Propel’s educational model at four new schools; and implementation of Propel’s model at an existing charter school in Wilmington, Delaware currently designated for school improvement.

Propel’s existing schools have guided disadvantaged students to improved academic achievement. Propel’s educational model is based on a vision of inspiring each student toward three goals—academic excellence, community service, and personal power—and on six “Promising Principles” that together create a distinctive, high-energy, motivating school climate: agile instruction, embedded support, culture of dignity, fully valued arts program, vibrant teaching communities, and quest for excellence. Propel is significantly outperforming statewide averages and its sending districts with regard to overall test scores as well as in performance by educationally disadvantaged and minority students.

Anticipated project outcomes include the establishment of six new schools implementing Propel’s educational model, achieving student academic proficiency rates higher than statewide averages while serving a predominantly educationally disadvantaged student body; expanded learning opportunities for disadvantaged students; and high rates of parent satisfaction, student retention, and teacher retention.