



Pennsylvania Charter Appeals Board approves tenth Propel school

Pittsburgh, PA (October 16, 2013) – The Pennsylvania Charter Schools Appeal Board granted Propel Hazelwood its charter after a 6-0 vote in favor of Propel Schools on Tuesday afternoon, October 15. Propel Hazelwood will be the tenth Propel school since opening its first school in Homestead ten years ago, in 2003. Propel Hazelwood will serve grades K – 4 in the 2014-15 school year, and will begin accepting applications immediately.

“It’s been a long journey,” said Reverend Tim Smith, Hazelwood’s Center of Life Executive Director. “But this is great news for the families in Greater Hazelwood. It is my hope that the community and Propel will be good partners; working together to create a school that provides the kind of education that our children can identify with and be excited about. The opportunity is here and possibilities are before us. Let’s make it work for everyone.”

Propel originally submitted its charter application to the Pittsburgh Public School board in the fall of 2012. In January 2013 Pittsburgh Public Schools did not approve Propel’s application to open a school in Hazelwood, and Propel submitted its application to the state charter appeals board.

“Hazelwood has been without a school for too long,” said Propel Schools Foundation Executive Director, Jeremy Resnick. “We are excited that the community has chosen Propel to bring a public school back to the neighborhood.”

Propel Hazelwood will be Propel’s tenth school, and Propel is currently celebrating its tenth anniversary. This will be Propel’s second school in the Pittsburgh school district. Propel Northside, which opened in the fall of 2011, was the first Propel school within the city of Pittsburgh. Propel Hazelwood will open in the 2014-15 school year in grades K – 4 (eventually expanding to a K-8 school), and will begin accepting applications immediately on the Propel Schools website at propelschools.org.

About Propel Schools

Propel Schools, a not-for-profit organization, has become both a regional asset and a national model, providing measurable evidence of how innovative public schools can expand opportunity for children and families, and can revitalize communities. Propel’s first school opened in 2003 with 180 children, occupying a small hospital basement in Homestead. In 2013, more than 3,200 K–12 students attend nine renovated facilities in Braddock Hills (two schools), Homestead, McKeesport, Montour, Munhall, Turtle Creek, Pitcairn, and Northside. Across all its schools, 74% of students qualify for the federal free/reduced cost lunch program, 70% are a minority and 15% have special needs. To learn more, visit www.propelschools.org.