



Community Day Charter Public School

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 15, 2010

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**Charter School Educators Financially Rewarded
for Making Dramatic Achievement Gains with Students**
*Community Day Charter Public School leaders and teachers
will be receiving up to \$121,250 for increasing student success
compared to other charter schools across the country*

Lawrence, Massachusetts, March 15, 2010 – Community Day Charter Public School

Summary

Community Day Charter Public School has been recognized and honored by New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) program for its significant student achievement gain on the MCAS tests in 2008-2009. The school was awarded for gains at the elementary school level. Educators at the school will receive individual financial rewards in exchange for working with New Leaders for New Schools to document and share the practices that led to the award-winning gains. 2010 marks the third consecutive year in which the school has been recognized with the EPIC award.

Community Day Charter School is part of a consortium of 179 charters from 20 states and D.C. that are competing for \$2.3M in incentive funds available to educators in schools making significant student achievement gains who agree to share their effective practices so others may learn from their success. EPIC is primarily funded by the federal Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grant, which will be releasing a new round of funding in the spring.

Charter School Student Achievement Gains

Community Day Charter Public School was among the 22 highest ranked charter schools in the EPIC National Charter School Consortium.

Mathematica Policy research, an independent, nationally recognized research firm, calculated the gains by comparing gains on state achievement tests made in the 2008-09 school year over 2007-08 and in some cases 2006-07 scores. EPIC awards are based on a school's annual gains rather than their overall proficiency rates for students.

EPIC Awards

EPIC is unique because it compares charter school achievement gain across 20 states and Washington D.C. EPIC

is in its third year of a five-year grant funded primarily by the federal government. Schools have the opportunity to win in multiple years. Once this third cohort of schools is awarded, the total amount of EPIC incentives awarded to charter educators will tip \$5.36 million. “We are thrilled that the teachers and leaders at our school have been recognized at the national level for their success and by extension, for their diligent work in achieving it,” says Sheila Balboni, Executive Director.

Principals, assistant principals, teachers, and instructional aides will receive awards; nine elementary schools, seven middle schools, and six high schools will be honored. School leaders at EPIC-winning schools will receive awards ranging from \$8,000 to \$12,000, while all teachers at each school will receive awards ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Additional information on the EPIC program can be found at www.nlms.org/epic.

Sharing Practices

EPIC award-winning schools provide a unique opportunity for educators to learn from their peers in order to strengthen their own school’s practice. All winning schools will submit school practices that contribute to effective teaching and learning through a collaborative process with New Leaders for New Schools.

Effective practices will be documented and shared with all EPIC schools. Case studies and profiles from all 22 award-winning charter schools will be posted on the EPIC Knowledge System, which is a comprehensive professional development site available to staff at all EPIC schools.

EPIC & New Leaders for New Schools

The goal of EPIC is to identify and share effective practices that have contributed to significant academic achievement gains among students in charter schools throughout the country. Conceived in 2006 by the non-profit, New Leaders for New Schools, EPIC is funded primarily by the U.S. Department of Education’s Teacher Incentive Fund Program with support from private philanthropists.

“Our goal is to promote high levels of academic achievement for all students and a culture of high expectations. EPIC gives educators opportunities to grow and lead while keeping great teachers in the classroom,” says New Leaders Chief Executive Officer and co-founder Jon Schnur.

The goal of the EPIC National Charter School Consortium is to connect with and learn from schools serving high-need populations that are making significant gains in student achievement. The EPIC program is also active in Memphis City Schools, D.C. Public Schools, and Denver Public Schools. In its first two years, EPIC awarded over \$7 million to 2,694 educators in 70 schools in 19 cities and 13 states. In the third year, EPIC will award an estimated \$5.7 million to an estimated 1,800 educators in EPIC district and charter schools around the country.

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