

For Immediate Release
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District Earns \$39.5 Million National Reform Grant

U.S. Department of Education funding will support District's bold initiatives to empower effective teachers and improve student outcomes

PITTSBURGH, PA—Pittsburgh Public Schools today received a grant award of \$39.5 million from the U.S. Department of Education's 2010 Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) program.

“The federal government has made it clear that they will support aggressive, innovative education reform. Pittsburgh won this grant because we are on the cutting edge of national efforts to improve educational outcomes for students. This grant will support our work to improve teacher effectiveness,” said Superintendent Mark Roosevelt. “We earned this award because we are doing the hard work necessary to dramatically change the course of an education system that failed our kids for too long.”

The District will use its TIF grant allocation to complete realization of the **Empowering Effective Teachers** plan. The TIF funds will enable the District to build and make sustainable a new teacher compensation system with an approach to performance-based compensation that is mature, thoughtful, and complete. The **Empowering Effective Teachers** work also provides significant new earning opportunities for effective teachers. These opportunities are linked to a number of measures and offered at the District, school, cohort, and individual levels.

Added Superintendent Roosevelt, “Today, Pittsburgh is a model for the rest of the nation because of our aggressive work, and also for our collaborative approach to how a district achieves meaningful change. We have been blessed to have great partners in this work, most importantly the Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers (PFT). We have also benefitted from tremendous support from our civic and community leaders who recognized that the status quo wasn't good enough any more.”

The **Empowering Effective Teachers** plan, and five years of successful reform, have positioned Pittsburgh to prove that effective teachers can move urban students to achievement levels that lead to college success or workforce certification. Earlier this year the District and the PFT achieved a comprehensive five-year collective bargaining agreement centered on what matters most—advancing the teaching profession in a way that improves student achievement. This historic agreement is anchored in the **Empowering Effective Teachers** plan, which was co-authored by the District and the PFT and funded in part by a \$40 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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According to the U.S. Department of Education, the 62 winning TIF applicants announced today represent rural and urban school districts as well as non-profit groups and state education organizations from 27 states across the country. The five-year \$1.2 billion TIF program seeks to strengthen the education profession by rewarding excellence, attracting teachers and principals to high-need and hard to staff areas, and providing all teachers and principals with the feedback and support they need to succeed.

Pittsburgh Public Schools is one of only two TIF recipients from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is among the 10 largest award recipients in the nation.

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