



Red Bank Charter School

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Red Bank Charter School Receives National Recognition for Driving Dramatic Student Achievement Gains**

*School leaders and teachers will receive up to \$100,000 in appreciation of their impact and for sharing information about strategies and best practices*

**RED BANK, NJ – March 9, 2011** – Red Bank Charter School is one of just 18 charter schools from across the country to be honored by the New Leaders for New Schools' Effective Practice Incentive Community (EPIC) program for accomplishing breakthrough student achievement gains. Educators at the school will receive individual financial rewards in exchange for working with New Leaders for New Schools to document and share the strategies and practices that led to their successes.

This year, 18 schools were selected from the 175 charter schools from 23 states and the District of Columbia that competed in the EPIC National Charter School Consortium for \$1.8 million in incentive funds. School leaders will receive awards ranging from \$5,000 to \$12,000 while most teachers at each school will receive awards ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,000. Once this fourth cohort of schools is awarded, the total amount of EPIC incentives distributed to charter educators will top \$6.4 million. A complete list of EPIC award winners is attached.

Founded in 1998, Red Bank Charter School is a tuition-free K-8 public school open to all students in Red Bank. With a diverse student body and small class sizes, Red Bank Charter School is among the highest performing charter schools in the state and is one of the few schools in New Jersey that offers performance pay. All teachers are awarded a base salary and have the opportunity to earn performance incentives.

“This recognition externally validates what we’ve known to be true at Red Bank Charter School all along,” said Meredith Pennotti, the school’s principal. “We’ve made steady, sustainable progress over the years. Now we want to replicate and share it. This grant helps to spread the innovation with other public schools. We impact 180 kids; now we can impact thousands.”

The power of EPIC lies in the opportunity for educators to learn from one another about the practices that contribute to achievement gains. All EPIC award-winning schools engage in a thorough investigation with the EPIC team to study and document the school practices and leadership actions that contributed to student success. Case studies and profiles from all 18 award-winning charter schools will be posted on the EPIC Knowledge System, a rich online professional development resource that educators can use to build capacity for school improvement and impact student achievement.

EPIC partners with Mathematica Policy Research, an independent, nationally recognized research firm, in the creation and refinement of a Value-Added Model to measure the impact of a school on its students over time. EPIC awards are based on a school’s annual gains rather than their overall proficiency rates for students.

The EPIC value-added model for charter schools is unique in that it compares gains from schools in 23 different states and Washington D.C. Award winners are selected solely based on growth made over the previous three years in student test scores.

New Leaders for New Schools launched EPIC in 2006 to link principal and teacher incentives to the wide-scale sharing of effective educational practices.

EPIC's National Charter School Consortium, currently in its fourth year, comprises up of 175 eligible schools in 23 states and the District of Columbia. In its first three years, the EPIC National Charter School Consortium awarded more than \$4.8 million to more than 1,200 educators in 47 schools in 13 states.

The EPIC program is also active in Memphis City Schools, D.C. Public Schools, and Denver Public Schools. EPIC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF), school district and charter school partners, and private philanthropic funders.

New Leaders for New Schools is working to address the national crisis in urban public education by selecting and preparing outstanding leaders and supporting the performance of the urban public schools they lead at scale. New Leaders for New Schools has set clear goals and strategies to help schools led by New Leader Principals succeed while also supporting the success of its partner school systems and, over time, education practitioners and policymakers nationwide.

Its strong focus on mission and long-term goals is allowing New Leaders for New Schools to make a powerful contribution toward its vision that one day every student will graduate from high school ready for college, career, and citizenship. Additional information about New Leaders for New Schools can be found at [www.nlms.org](http://www.nlms.org).

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