

**Propel Charter Schools  
Pittsburgh, PA**

Director of Operations: Rich Snyder  
No. of Schools: 5  
Four K thru 8 schools  
One High School

Partnered with Inteligent Resources: Since 2004-2005 school year  
Technology Support Gained: Over \$3 Million

**Project Background:**

Propel operates high performance charter schools in educationally underserved communities of the Pittsburgh region. Propel's first school opened in 2003 with 180 children, today the student population is over 1,500.

Inteligent Resources began working with the Propel administrative team when it had one school providing Technology Planning and E-Rate consulting services.

**Project Challenge:**

After Propel opened their first school, they quickly realized that there was a true need to transform the region's educational landscape, especially in communities with a shortage of good school options. Although they faced opposition in the beginning, the strong enrollment demand naturally led to opening another school and then another.

"One of the critical components of our educational mission is to incorporate technology to support and enhance the curriculum," Propel's Director of Operations, Rich Snyder said. "One lesson we learned early was that technology planning is critical. The Inteligent Resources team helped us to develop a systematic approach to build our technology platform not just for one school but to support schools of the future."

Over the years Propel has worked with Inteligent Resources to assess technology along with a process and organizational analysis.

"Inteligent Resources was able to guide the development of our strategic technology plan," added Snyder. "This is essential so that we have a long-term technology vision to match our organization's growth projections and educational goals."

"Once a technology plan is in place, then the infrastructure build out and network design process can begin," he explained. "We needed a team of specialists who could help us with all types of school buildings—i.e. some were located in buildings which needed extensive renovation and others were newer facilities."

Intelagent Resources then helped Propel identify and secure funding to implement and support their technology vision.

“Ultimately, we wanted to access the E-Rate funding to build cost-effective, scalable and sustainable technology infrastructure,” explained Snyder. “Understanding the intricacies of filing for E-Rate is not our staff’s expertise. Intelagent Resources staged, planned, applied for and monitored the E-Rate process.”

**Project Reward:**

Over the last several years, Intelagent Resources helped Propel secure over \$3 million of technology funding to be used for network infrastructure and savings on our monthly telecommunication bills. The financial returns have ranged from 10-14 times the investment Propel paid to Intelagent Resources for services. The functional returns are immeasurable.

As Propel moves forward with its expansion plans, Intelagent Resources will consider data centralization issues and incorporate in to the overall technology strategy and secure future E-Rate funds where possible. “Again, as we continue to grow, our technology needs will change,” added Snyder. “We are now resolving how to manage our network from a central site along with the need for expanded data exchange.”

“Intelagent Resources is our technology partner, and they have proven over the years that that they offer quality technology services, technical expertise, and all-important planning skills,” Snyder concluded.

To learn more about how Intelagent Resources can help your school benefit from a strategic technology direction and plan, call 1-412-564-4328 or visit [www.intelagentresources.com](http://www.intelagentresources.com)

# # #