



For immediate release

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**TREXLER MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECTED FOR STATE-SPONSORED
“CLOSING THE GAP” ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**

(Allentown, PA, August 10, 2004) –Trexler Middle School was recently selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Achievement Gap Effort (PAGE1) by the Council of Basic Education. The program, which requires a three-year commitment, engages teachers, school staff, students and community in an effort to close the school’s achievement gap. Trexler Middle School was one of only sixteen schools in the Commonwealth to be selected for the PAGE1 program. Schools that were selected have been identified as places where the strategies for success are put in place and are on target to close the achievement gap. Trexler and the school-community team have the opportunity to not only close the achievement gap, but to also demonstrate to other schools its progress in doing so.

“I am extremely excited about our PAGE1 status,” says Trexler Principal, Ron Kreitz. “We began our middle school reform efforts last year. Our team identified many areas where we can enhance or improve the middle school experience for Trexler students. Many of those recommendations will be implemented during the 2004-2005 school year. I see the PAGE1 initiative as a means to further improve our educational program for the benefit of all of our students.”

“Trexler’s selection as a PAGE1 participant by the Council of Basic Education is significant as it provides an outstanding opportunity for the school in its effort to advance student achievement,” stated Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Karen S. Angello. “I had the opportunity to attend the state-wide kick-off in Harrisburg with the Trexler team. It was not only noteworthy to hear Kati Hickock of the Education Trust, but also to meet with the Trexler team and observe their enthusiasm to formulate plans for this next school year. It is important that our schools be recognized for the collaborative efforts and determination they demonstrate in their quest to improve student performance. The collaboration with the Intermediate Unit 21 and the Council of Basic Education will serve as a model throughout the Commonwealth.”

The first step for each PAGE1 school is to establish a school-community team of 6-10 individuals that represent teachers, parents, business, community and higher education organizations. Mr. Luis Ramos, who chaired the Empowerment Team and now the High School Reform Team, will serve as the liaison between the school and the State Council of Basic Education.

The Trexler Community-School team appointees are: Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 lead person Jackie Sham, PAGE 1 Liaison; district lead person, Rita Perez, ASD Director of Professional and Staff Development; school lead person, Ronald Kreitz, principal; Trexler teacher representatives Cathy Hamscher, 8B Team, Erin McMann, LS, Karen Rissell, Grade 6, Karen Shaffer, 8A Team, Mary Ann Siegle, 6A Team, Chris Temprow, 7A team; college representative, George Bonekemper, Education Department, Muhlenberg College; elected official TBA; community organization representative, Roberta Meek, Asset Building Schools; parent organization, Bonnie McMahan, PTA; additional member, Martin Velazquez, Allentown City Council/parent.

In late June, Trexler PAGE1 team members attended a forum in Harrisburg designed to educate participants on short and long-term expectations of the program. This fall, the team will visit an out-of-state school that has demonstrated success in reducing the achievement gap. For more information on the PAGE1 program and the Pennsylvania State Education system, please visit www.pde.state.pa.us.

The Allentown School District is the largest district in the Lehigh Valley, serving more than 17,200 students and employing over 2,000 staff and professionals. As the fourth-largest district in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, ASD strives to offer its students highest-quality education. www.allentownsd.org or 484-765-4000.

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