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**BART Charter Public School Receives National Recognition for
Driving Dramatic Student Achievement Gains**
*School leaders and teachers will receive up to \$ 78,000
in appreciation of their impact and for sharing information about their practices*

BART Charter Public 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 practices that led to their successes.

This year, 18 charter schools nationwide were selected from 23 states and the District of Columbia. (There are 3,400 charter schools nationwide.) 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.

"I know I speak for our entire faculty and staff when I say that we are extremely proud of the academic growth of our students. The entire school community – faculty, staff and students – works hard every day to achieve the kinds of student gains EPIC is recognizing," said Executive Director Julia Bowen.

EPIC's recognition of BART's success follows Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick's commending the school for being "high growth" and for narrowing the achievement gap, one of only 13 schools in the Commonwealth to receive both of these distinctions in 2010.

"These results do not happen by chance. Our school has earned recognition from EPIC and the governor because we are able to remain singly focused on our goals," said Principal Ben Klompus. "Our job is to take all students, regardless of their abilities, and get them prepared for college, no matter what it takes. Our students' results demonstrate this is possible."

BART Charter Public School is a college-preparatory middle and high school located in Adams, MA. Any students eligible to attend Massachusetts public schools are eligible to attend BART. Additional information about BART can be found at www.bartcharter.org.

Learning from Effective Practices

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 their 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.

Determining EPIC Award-Winners

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.

EPIC and New Leaders for New Schools

New Leaders for New Schools launched the Effective Practice Incentive Community (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, is made 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 over 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 its 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.