



## **Empowered with Meg Ryan Highlights Provident Charter School's Remediation Model for Dyslexia**

Los Angeles, CA - The upcoming Public Television series "Empowered with Meg Ryan" will feature Provident Charter School in a new segment dedicated to understanding and addressing dyslexia and other language-based learning differences. The program partnered with the charter school to examine how their specialized educational structure is designed to remediate learning deficits for students who learn differently.

Public Television audiences can anticipate this insightful segment, set to film on November 20, 2025, at Provident Charter School's main location in Pittsburgh, PA. The segment will focus on the school's unique, publicly funded model, which provides a level of instruction typically reserved for private institutions. Provident Charter School operates with the core belief that students with dyslexia—who are often bright and capable but face challenges with reading, writing, and sequencing—can achieve their full potential. The model centers on a high-touch environment, emphasizing a low staff-to-student ratio, explicit, multisensory instruction, and intensive, targeted interventions. This specialized curriculum is delivered through a longer school day and two additional instructional days, accounting for a 25% increase in instructional time compared to other area schools. These added minutes are strategically used to provide daily remedial instruction and grade-level content in both English Language Arts and Mathematics.

Viewers will learn about the resources dedicated to training the school's educators,; a critical factor considering that over 70% of the Provident student body receives Special Education Services. Furthermore, the school employs over a dozen full-time Interventionists, multiple certified Dyslexia practitioners, and therapists to run more than 140 Tier II small groups and 50 Tier III pull-out groups weekly. The program aims to educate the general public about the specific instructional needs of students with dyslexia and the efficacy of this remediation-focused approach, which strives to ensure students make more than a year's worth of growth to close the achievement gap.

"By addressing reading deficits directly and explicitly, we are truly changing trajectories. When a child struggles to read, it affects every part of their life, and their family's life as well. We believe reading is a civil right. At Provident Charter Schools, we are committed to ensuring students receive the instruction they need, regardless of their family's income or background." - Maria Paluselli, CEO, Provident Charter School

The segment will provide context for the necessity of this focused educational model, citing data from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), which shows a long-term stagnation in national fourth-grade reading scores. For instance, in 2024, only 31% of fourth graders performed at or above proficient reading, a figure that is four percentile points lower than in 1992. The school was conceptualized by a founder who, having experienced the personal and financial challenges of dyslexia in his own life and with his children, sought to create a tuition-free, high-quality public option. This initiative addressed a lack of specialized programming in the region dedicated to this specific learning profile. The segment will demonstrate that this model is scalable and financially viable.

Furthermore, the segment will offer an overview of the school's comprehensive focus, which extends beyond academic remediation to include a unique Taekwondo program. This program, developed in-house, uses a customized pattern and belt system and contributes significantly to the students' academic, personal, and social development, building confidence and discipline alongside literacy skills. The exploration will demonstrate how a specialized, dedicated public school can successfully provide the instructional intensity and expertise required for students to make significant gains and return to mainstream educational settings prepared for future success. The ultimate objective is for students to transfer to their home district or another school of choice, equipped with the necessary skills and self-assurance.

**About Empowered with Meg Ryan:** “Empowered with Meg Ryan” is a Public Television program that offers viewers valuable insights and educational content, inspiring them to take informed action in their lives and communities. The program highlights organizations that are making a positive impact and providing pathways to greater well-being. Learn more at: [www.empoweredprogram.com](http://www.empoweredprogram.com)

**About Provident Charter School:** Provident Charter Schools (PCS) are public charter schools dedicated to serving students with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia, in grades 1-8 across two campuses in Southwestern Pennsylvania. PCS provides a high quality, well-rounded education delivered through multisensory instructional methods and individual learning plans. Their model is designed for student remediation and preparation for success in high school and beyond. Learn more at: [providentcharterschool.org](http://providentcharterschool.org)