A partnership between two educational pioneers, with financing support from Finance Fund, will reopen the doors to the former Kent Elementary School building as Buckeye Preparatory Academy, a community school for at-risk elementary and middle school students in Columbus.

Finance Fund provided $1.5 million in NMTC financing to Buckeye Community Hope Foundation (BCHF) to purchase a 33,000 sq. ft. former elementary school building on 3.5 acres. The school is made possible through a partnership between BCHF and Newpoint Education Partners LLC, which is nationally recognized for its pioneering use of technology, models and curriculum.

“These organizations are advancing education and providing opportunity for at-risk children who may find it difficult to succeed in a traditional educational model,” said Finance Fund CEO James R. Klein. “Providing this NMTC financing enables the Buckeye Preparatory Academy to reach more children and prepare them for a great future.”

Newpoint’s education model called NewStart, is based on establishing strong relationships with all stakeholders including parents, students, sponsors, board members, community organizations and the community at large.

BCHF is committed to promoting high student achievement, financial stewardship, and responsible governance and management with the schools they sponsor.

The surrounding community has a 21 percent unemployment rate and 40 percent poverty rate with 45 percent median family income. The project will retain 21 full-time jobs and create 35 construction jobs.