

Contact: Mel Ochoa; (347) 675-8575; melochoa@achievementfirst.org

ACHIEVEMENT FIRST SCHOOLS ATTAIN MASTERY GAINS OF 7.8% ON THE 2012 CMT AND CAPT

AF Bridgeport Academy Middle School Averaged 64% At Goal Across Subjects

July 20, 2012 – NEW HAVEN, CONN. – Achievement First, a high-performing network of 22 non-profit, college-preparatory public charter schools in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island (in 2013), today announced mastery gains averaged across its schools of 7.8 percent on the 2012 Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test, driven by strong performances at AF Bridgeport Academy Middle School with a 19 percentage point increase at goal and AF Hartford Academy Middle School with an 11.8 percentage point increase at goal. AF Amistad High School in New Haven also posted significant achievement results with 84 percent at goal in writing, as did Amistad Academy Middle School with 73 percent at goal in math, 64 percent at goal in reading and 72 percent at goal in writing (a 4.2 percentage point mastery increase averaged across subjects).

Achievement First is successfully closing the achievement gap throughout its Connecticut schools in math, reading, writing and science. The network as a whole showed improvement at goal of 12.1 percent in science, 11.4 percent in writing, 7.1 percent in reading and 3.4 percent in math. At both Amistad Academy Middle School and Elm City College Preparatory Middle School, 100 percent of eighth graders were proficient in math. In its elementary, middle and high school groupings, the network increased its mastery levels by 1.6 percent, 9.9 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.

“We are proud that Achievement First’s students, parents, teachers and school leaders are serving as a proof point that urban, low-income students can achieve academic excellence on par with their affluent peers when provided with equal educational opportunity,” said Doug McCurry, co-CEO and superintendent. “While our results are strong, there is still much work to be done. We will not rest until all students attain mastery of Connecticut’s standards.”

About Achievement First

Achievement First, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, currently operates nine public charter schools in Connecticut, with a 10th opening this fall as Achievement First Hartford High. The mission of Achievement First is to close the achievement gap and deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all children, regardless of race, economic status or zip code. With its college-preparatory focus, the Achievement First approach is attaining breakthrough academic gains throughout its network of 22 public charter schools. In the 2012-13 academic year, Achievement First will educate more than 7,000 students in historically low-performing and underserved neighborhoods in Connecticut and New York (with Rhode Island opening in 2013).

Achievement First’s approach to teaching and learning enables every student to succeed at the highest levels. This involves:

- Providing students with more time on task and intense intervention when they are struggling so that no child falls through the cracks;
- Recruiting and developing successful teachers and school leaders and empowering them to use student data to strategically drive instruction;

- Creating a joyful school culture where it is “cool to be smart” that emphasizes character education and focuses students on college.

For more information, please visit <http://www.AchievementFirst.org>.

###