



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE; May 15, 2015

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## **ACHIEVEMENT FIRST, YES PREP AND ASPIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCE SECOND CHARTER NETWORK ACCELERATOR COHORT**

NEW HAVEN, CONN. – The Charter Network Accelerator, an innovative program focused on helping experienced leaders, with an emphasis on leaders of color, in designing and scaling their networks of schools, has announced a new cohort of nine high-potential charter management organizations (CMO) across six states and the District of Columbia.

The nine public charter management organizations (CMO) selected as members of the second cohort represent 9,000 students at 28 schools. The group follows an impressive inaugural cohort of 10 CMO leaders. Together with lead partners Achievement First, YES Prep and Aspire Public Schools, the diverse Charter Network Accelerator brings together charter management organizations achieving strong results with historically underserved populations for quarterly learning sessions where leaders receive training on designing and operating high-performing CMOs and building their leadership and management capacity.

“In helping great leaders develop the tools they need to grow larger networks of outstanding schools, the Accelerator helps ensure that thousands more students will be successful in college, career and life,” said Achievement First Chief External Officer Chastity Lord. “Further, our diverse cohort is helping to address a longstanding obstacle in effective school reform: a lack of diversity among our nation’s educators.”

### **The second Charter Network Accelerator Cohort participants include:**

- Achievement Prep (Washington, D.C.)
- Brooklyn Prospect Charter Schools (Brooklyn, N.Y.)
- Freedom Prep (Memphis, Tenn.)
- Fortune Schools in (Sacramento, Calif.)
- Hiawatha Academies (Minneapolis, Minn.)
- Milwaukee College Prep (Milwaukee, Wis.)
- ReGeneration Schools (Chicago, Ill.)
- Two Rivers Public Charter Schools (Washington, D.C.)
- Voices College-Bound Language Academy in (San Jose, Calif.)

For more information, contact Amanda Pinto at 203-726-0168 or [amandapinto@achievementfirst.org](mailto:amandapinto@achievementfirst.org).

### **About Achievement First**

Achievement First is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization that currently operates 29 public charter schools in



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New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island. 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. During the past 15 years, we have successfully expanded from operating one middle school serving 85 fifth- and sixth-graders to managing 29 high-performing schools serving 9,500 students in kindergarten through grade 12. Achievement First believes in sharing best practices for closing the achievement gap at scale, and partners with traditional districts and public charter schools to improve education for all students.

#### **About YES Prep Public Schools**

YES Prep is an open-enrollment, public charter school system that currently operates 13 schools serving over 9,000 students in grades 6-12 throughout Houston, Texas. Since opening its doors in 1998, YES Prep has continuously redefined what is possible for students, families, and the public education system at large. YES Prep alumni are earning college degrees at five times the rate of their peers in Texas and 97% of our graduates enroll in college within one year of high school graduation. In 2012, YES Prep was awarded the inaugural Broad Prize for Public Charter Schools and has consistently ranked among the Top 100 Best High Schools according to U.S. News and World Report.

#### **About Aspire Public Schools**

Aspire Public Schools is a national nonprofit organization that currently operates 38 high-performing, open-enrollment public charter schools serving over 14,600 students in underserved communities across California and Memphis, Tenn. Founded in 1998, Aspire is one of the highest-performing public school systems in the nation, delivering a rigorous *College for Certain* education to students in grades K-12. An unrelenting focus on college preparedness led to 100 percent of graduating Aspire seniors being accepted to four-year colleges or universities over the last four years. Opening its first schools in 1999, Aspire is currently celebrating its 15th anniversary as one of the nation's first charter management organizations. Visit Aspire Public Schools at [www.aspirepublicschools.org](http://www.aspirepublicschools.org).

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