



Contact: Amanda Pinto; (203) 726-0168; amandapinto@achievementfirst.org

ACHIEVEMENT FIRST SCHOOLS ATTAIN PROFICIENCY GAINS OF 7.6% ON THE 2012 NEW YORK STATE ASSESSMENTS

Achievement First Schools Averaged 73% Proficiency Across All Subjects

JULY 17, 2012—BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Achievement First, a high-performing network of 22 non-profit, college-preparatory public charter schools in Connecticut, New York and, in 2013, Rhode Island, announced proficiency gains averaged across its schools of 7.6 percent on the 2012 New York state assessments. The improvements were driven by strong performances at AF Endeavor Middle School, with a 13 percent increase in proficiency, AF Bushwick Middle School and AF Bushwick Elementary School—the latter two increasing in proficiency by 11 percent each. Additionally, AF Bushwick Middle School posted significant math achievement results, with 96 percent of its students achieving proficiency.

Achievement First is successfully closing the achievement gap throughout its Brooklyn schools. Overall, 73 percent of Achievement First students reached proficiency on the New York state assessments, compared to 60 percent of students across New York City. Achievement First's 11 New York schools showed an improvement in proficiency of 7.6 percent overall, 9.3 percent in English Language Arts and 5.7 percent in math. The statewide average increased by approximately 2 percent in each content area.

"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 master New York's standards."

For a full list of scores, visit <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/irs/pressRelease/20120717/home.html>.

About Achievement First

Achievement First, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, currently operates 11 public charter schools in Brooklyn, with a 12th opening this fall as Achievement First Brownsville Middle. 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>.

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