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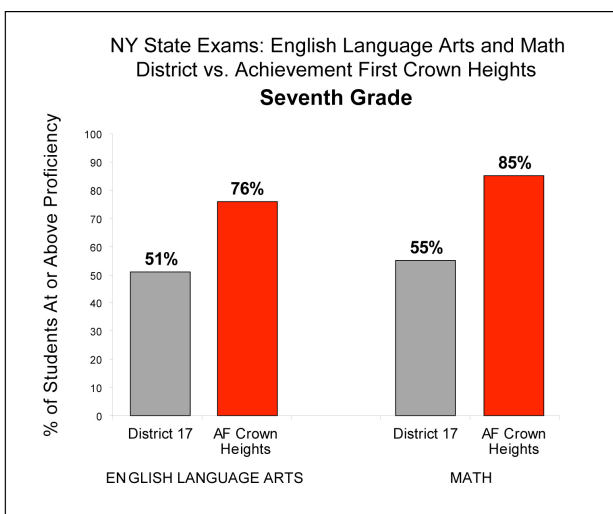
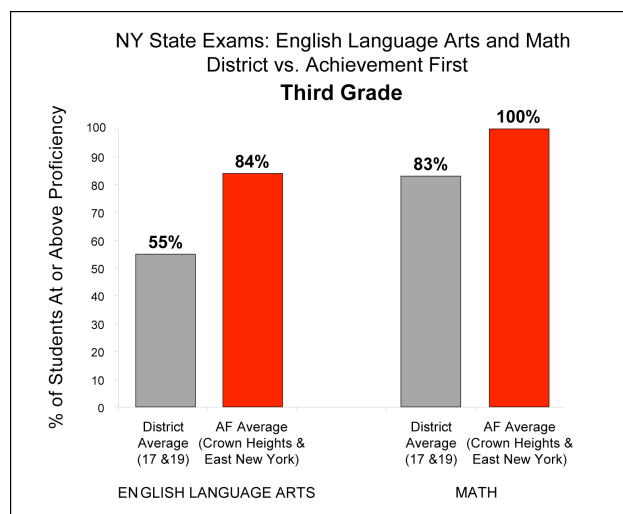
### ACHIEVEMENT FIRST SCHOLARS CLOSE GAP ON STATE EXAMS

*Over 1,400 Charter-School Students Outperform NYC Districts by 19 Percentage Points*

June 26, 2008 – Brooklyn, NY – Data released this week by Commissioner Richard Mills of the New York State Education Department shows a rise in student achievement results in reading and mathematics across New York City. Among those excelling academically are students in the Achievement First public charter schools network, which now serves 1,400 students in some of Brooklyn’s most challenging communities.

Based on the released results, 67% of Achievement First scholars in Brooklyn performed at or above levels 3 and 4 on the state’s English Language Arts (ELA) exam and 92% performed at or above levels 3 and 4 on the Math exam. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to hard-working students, teachers and principals – especially when results in the same New York City districts for the same grade levels average 55% in reading and 83% in math.

Results are even more pronounced at Achievement First Crown Heights Charter School. Third-grade students who tested for the first time achieved 89% proficiency on the state ELA exam, and 100% of the scholars met or exceeded standards in math. At Achievement First East New York, third-grade students achieved 78% proficiency on the ELA exam and 99% proficiency in math.



According to Achievement First’s Superintendent and Co-CEO Doug McCurry, “These results indicate that students can succeed if they are challenged and supported to meet high expectations. Thanks to the hard work of everyone in the Achievement First extended family, students who entered Achievement First schools two grade levels behind are now meeting or exceeding proficiency.”

The mission of Achievement First is to close the achievement gap and deliver on the promise of equal educational opportunity for all children in America. With its college-preparatory focus, the

Achievement First model is attaining the breakthrough academic gains it set out to accomplish in New York City when it was invited to be a part of Chancellor Joel Klein's education reform efforts.

Faced with long waiting lists, Achievement First is gaining widespread recognition in Brooklyn. Over the past three years, the Achievement First network of charter schools has expanded from two locations in Crown Heights and East New York to serving more than 1,400 students in some Brooklyn's historically lowest-performing neighborhoods. With academies growing in Crown Heights, East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick and newly added Brownsville, Achievement First schools support some of New York City's most underserved families.

Achievement First, a non-profit charter school management organization, was founded in 2003 by Dacia Toll and Doug McCurry, the leaders of the nationally acclaimed Amistad Academy that opened in New Haven, CT in 1999. There are currently 12 Achievement First academies in Connecticut and New York serving over 2,100 students.

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For more information about Achievement First, please visit [www.achievementfirst.org](http://www.achievementfirst.org).