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ACHIEVEMENT FIRST AMISTAD HIGH ACHIEVES OUTSTANDING CAPT WRITING PERFORMANCE

Elm City College Prep Middle Exhibits Strong Progress

August 14, 2013 – NEW HAVEN, CONN. – Achievement First, a high-performing network of 25 non-profit, college-preparatory public charter schools in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island, today announced that AF Amistad High achieved outstanding performance on the writing section of the 2013 Connecticut Academic Performance Test, and Elm City College Prep Middle made significant gains in reading and writing on the 2013 Connecticut Mastery Test.

At AF Amistad High, 85 percent of students scored at or above goal in writing on the CAPT, outperforming affluent districts including Fairfield and Greenwich, achieving on par with Madison, and outperforming the state average by 23 percentage points. On the CMT, Elm City College Prep Middle eighth graders outperformed the state average by 23 percentage points in math, achieving 88 percent at goal and outperforming their affluent peers in Fairfield, Greenwich and Weston. Elm City College Prep Middle’s sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade classes achieved double-digit gains in reading. Sixth graders exhibited the school’s strongest class growth in reading, growing 16 percentage points at or above goal since fifth grade. In writing, Elm City College Prep Middle seventh graders showed a 29 percent class increase at goal.

“We are proud that our students are continuing to close the achievement gap with their more affluent peers,” said Doug McCurry, co-CEO and superintendent. “However, we know there is much more work to be done to ensure that all of our students are on track to graduate from high school with the skills they need to succeed in college. On the 2013 Connecticut Mastery Test, scores across the state—and at Achievement First—dipped since last year. We are focused on helping all students make outstanding academic progress, while also looking ahead to the coming school year when tests are slated to be fully aligned with Common Core State Standards. We are committed to preparing all of our students to meet these more rigorous standards, which will provide an even greater indication that they have the skills they need to graduate from college and succeed in a competitive world.”

About Achievement First

Achievement First, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, currently operates ten public charter schools in Connecticut. 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 25 public charter schools. In the 2013-14 academic year, Achievement First will educate more than 8,100 students in historically low-performing and underserved neighborhoods in Connecticut, New York and Rhode Island.

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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