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**AMISTAD ACADEMY HIGH DEMONSTRATES 98% AVERAGE PROFICIENCY
AND 72% AVERAGE MASTERY ON CAPT**

Achievement First's Inaugural High School Proves That Achievement Gap Can Be Closed

July 16, 2008 – New Haven, CT – Achievement First, a non-profit charter school management organization, today announced the first-ever results of its Amistad Academy High on the Connecticut Academic Performance Test, showing extremely promising academic performance in its first year of testing.

Based on results released yesterday by the state of Connecticut, Achievement First 10th-grade students achieved 93% proficiency in math and 100% proficiency in all three other sections: reading, writing and science. This is a tremendous accomplishment and a testament to hard-working students, teachers and principals – especially when proficiency results in Connecticut high schools averaged 80% for math, 83% for reading, 88% for writing and 81% for science. Amistad Academy High, serving students admitted by lottery from the City of New Haven, also surpassed New Haven high schools that averaged 46% for math, 60% for reading, 73% for writing and 51% for science proficiency.

Further, Amistad Academy High students accomplished 52% mastery (goal) in math, 70% mastery in science, 79% mastery in reading and 86% mastery in writing, while Connecticut high school students attained 50%, 47%, 46% and 58% mastery in math, science, reading and writing, respectively. New Haven high school students attained 15%, 16%, 17% and 27% mastery in math, science, reading and writing, respectively.

Although the cohort size is small with only 29 students, these mastery results position Amistad High's New Haven students as number one in the region for reading and number two for writing, outperforming students in Madison and Guilford.

Amistad Academy High, founded in 2006, is an extension of the nationally renowned Amistad Middle School, recently cited by the U.S. Department of Education as one of seven schools across the country that should be models for closing the achievement gap.

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According to Achievement First's Superintendent and Co-CEO Doug McCurry, "Now that we have expanded in New Haven, Achievement First has the opportunity to generate huge academic gains from a student's first day in Kindergarten to the proud day of college acceptance. As the results at Amistad High prove, students can succeed if they are challenged and supported to meet soaring expectations."

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 since opening Amistad Academy Middle in 1999.

Over the past nine years, the Achievement First network of charter schools has expanded from the nationally acclaimed Amistad Academy to include Elm City College Prep, Achievement First Bridgeport Academy and soon-to-open Achievement First Hartford Academy. The network also includes six charter schools in Brooklyn, NY, where 67% of Achievement First scholars 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. Results in equivalent New York City districts and grade levels averaged 55% in reading and 83% in math.

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About Achievement First

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. In September 2008, the Achievement First network of schools will educate nearly 3,700 children in historically low-performing and underserved neighborhoods.

For more information about Achievement First, please visit www.achievementfirst.org.