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Achievement First Plans to Open New Public Charter School in Central Brooklyn

Proposed Additional K-12 School Is in Response to Tremendous Demand for Seats at AF Schools

BROOKLYN, NY—May 29, 2012—Achievement First, a network of 20 high-performing, college-preparatory public charter schools in New York, Connecticut and Rhode Island, plans to open a new school that would serve the communities of Central Brooklyn. The proposal is in response to the overwhelming demand for seats in its schools and for more high-quality, college-preparatory public school choices in Brooklyn.

In its most recent student recruitment season, Achievement First garnered more than 11 applications for each open seat in its New York schools. According to the Charter Center's 2012 Lottery Report, New York City public charter schools received an estimated 133,080 applications for 14,600 available seats in this spring's lotteries. A majority of applicants live in Harlem, South Bronx and Central Brooklyn.

In response to this need, Achievement First will submit the new school proposal to the State University of New York (SUNY) Charter Schools Institute. If approved, the school will open in August 2013 serving fifth grade and, by the end of its initial charter term, will enroll 800 students in grades kindergarten through eight. Eventually, it will serve students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Since community voices are vitally important in its planned growth, Achievement First invites local leaders and neighbors to meet with us and share feedback. A survey is also being circulated to gather highly valued community input about the expansion: www.surveymonkey.com/s/AFCharterApplication.

Achievement First serves more than 3,600 low-income students in grades K through 11 in Crown Heights, Bushwick, East New York, Bedford-Stuyvesant and Brownsville. In all of its eligible charters, Achievement First earned top grades on the New York City 2011 Progress Reports: AF Endeavor (grade A), AF Bushwick (grade A), AF Crown Heights (grade A), AF East New York (grade A) and AF Brownsville (grade B). In New Haven at AF Amistad High School, for the third year in as many graduating classes, 100 percent of seniors have been accepted into four-year colleges and universities. Achievement First will continue to build upon this success in Brooklyn.

About Achievement First

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 20 public charter schools. In the 2011-12 academic year, Achievement First is educating nearly 6,200 children in historically low-performing and underserved neighborhoods in Connecticut and New York (with Rhode Island opening in 2013).

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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 about Achievement First, please visit www.achievementfirst.org.