year one scores!!, DRAFT

NEWS RELEASE

DC PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD

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Charter School Board Releases School-by-School Scores

Washington, DC: The DC Public Charter School Board has released school-by-school scores for the Districtwide Stanford-9 tests taken this spring. Since all the schools authorized by the Board opened their doors in the 1998-99 school year, this is the first set of achievement tests to be publicly reported. Results of the spring testing will be released each year.

Chair Josephine Baker noted that the Board considers these scores a baseline against which future achievement gains will be measured. "In their first year, our main concern has been that each school put in place the program it promised -- and we will shortly release the results of our extensive 'implementation review' documenting how well each school has done in that task."

"But student achievement is the single most important measure of school performance, and the Stanford-9 will provide an annual point of reference for the success of our schools," she added.

Test scores are one component in the extensive accountability system adopted this year by the DC Public Charter School Board. Each school has an accountability plan tailored to its own mission, setting specific goals and benchmarks by which its performance can be measured. These include a number of academic measures as well as indicators of organizational progress and fiscal soundness.

Annual reports, required by law from each DC public charter school, will be available in early November, and will provide parents and the public with the benchmark indicators required in the Board's accountability plans.

(Scores and technical information follow.)

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Stanford-9 Scores: Spring, 1999

DC Public Charter School Board

♦ The School for Arts in Learning

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	82	15	4	0
Math	81	19	0	0

Location:	16th & L Sts.,NW
Grade Range for SY98-99:	Pre-K through 2nd Grade
Program Type:	Arts-infused curriculum, primarily serving students with special needs and learning difficulties
Percent Low-Income[1]	53.1
Contact:	Kim Morton, Principal 202-296-9100

♦ Edison-Friendship Public Charter School

Chamberlain Campus

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	30	47	19	3
Math	34	42	21	2

Location:	13th and Potomac Streets, SE
Grade Range for SY98-99:	K-5
Program Type:	Research-based Edison curriculum stressing rigorous academics and technology
Percent Low-income:	75.9
Contact:	Dr. John Pannell, Principal 202-547-5800

Woodridge Campus

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	38	46	13	3
Math	45	36	17	2

Location:	2959 Carlton Avenue, NE (Woodridge neighborhood)
Grade Range for SY98-99	K-5
Program Type:	Research-based Edison curriculum stressing rigorous academics and technology
Percent Low-income:	51.9
Contact:	Clara Whitley Canty, Principal 202-635-6500

[1] Based on percentage of students eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch, as reported to DCPS in October, 1998.

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♦ SEED Public Charter School

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	**20**	**57**	**23**	**0**
Math	**70**	**27**	**3**	**0**

Location:	3rd & H, NE (at Capital Children's Museum)
Grade Range for SY98-99	7th
Program Type:	Residential, college preparatory school
Percent Low-income	65
Contact:	Dr. Thomas Stewart, Executive Director 202-547-5651

♦ Cesar Chavez Public Charter High School for Public Policy

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	**51**	**40**	**8**	**2**
Math	**80**	**18**	**2**	**0**

Location:	1346 Florida Avenue, NW (near 13th & U)[2]
Grade Range for SY98-99	9th
Program Type	Academic high school, preparing students for college and citizenship using public policy resources of Washington DC
Percent Low-income	86.7
Contact:	Irasema Salcido, Principal 202-387-6980

♦ Maya Angelou Public Charter School

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	**44**	**52**	**4**	**0**
Math	**89**	**7**	**4**	**0**

Location:	13th & V NW (Shaw neighborhood)
Grade Range for SY98-99	9-12 (ungraded)
Program Type	Intensive academic/life skills program serving youth who have been in the juvenile justice system
Percent Low-income	95.5
Contact:	David Domenici, Principal 202-939-9080

[2] Cesar Chavez was located at Waterside Mall in SW DC during the 98-99 school year.

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♦ Washington Math Science Technology Public Charter High School

	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Reading	**34**	**54**	**12**	**0**
Math	**42**	**40**	**15**	**3**

Location:	401 M Street, SW (Waterside Mall)
Grade Range for SY98-99	9-12
Program Type	Academic high school, preparing students for work and higher education through Modern Red Schoolhouse standards
Percent low-income	67.5
Contact:	Darnell Bethell, Principal 202-488-1996

Technical Questions

✓ **Are public charter schools required to administer the Stanford 9?**

Yes. According to the DC School Reform Act, which established the charter school program in the District, charter applicants must describe how schools will enable students "to perform competitively on any districtwide assessments." Each charter awarded by the Board includes a requirement that the school administer "any District-wide assessments used to measure student achievement...covering the same grades or ages as the School..."

✓ **Are special education students required to take the test?**

Each charter says that with respect to students receiving special education services, the school is required to administer tests related to the students' individual education plans.

✓ **What do the four Stanford 9 performance levels mean?**

Below Basic:	Little of no mastery of fundamentals
Basic:	Partial mastery of fundamental skills needed for satisfactory work at this grade level
Proficient:	Solid academic performance; student is prepared for next grade
Advanced:	Superior performance; beyond grade-level mastery

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✓ **Why not report scores according to a national norm?**

There are two reasons.

First, each school authorized by the Board operates a standards-based learning program. Criterion-referenced scores are designed to tell how students are doing against demanding performance standards, rather than simply comparing them to a national average

Second, the Stanford 9 is nationally normed at each grade level, but there is no valid norm for entire schools. In a large school system, it might make sense to report grade-by-grade scores according to national norms; but in just six schools the number of students at any given grade might be so small as to make any norm-referenced comparison meaningless.

✓ **Why are only six schools' scores reported here?**

In the 1998-99 school year, the Board oversaw two other operating charter schools. Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School primarily serves an adult population, and did not administer the Stanford 9. ARE Public Charter School did not open until late January, 1999, and while the school did administer the spring test for diagnostic purposes, the first results will be publicly reported in the next cycle.