

# Uncommon Schools

EXCELLENCE NORTH ★ STAR COLLEGIATE TRUE NORTH PREPARATORY

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **LOCAL CHARTER SCHOOL CELEBRATES NEW HOME AND TOP RESULTS Excellence Charter School Students Post Outstanding State Test Scores**

June 1, 2007. *Brooklyn, New York.* School leaders at Excellence Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant have been looking forward to June 5<sup>th</sup>, when civic leaders, friends, and supporters of the school will gather to dedicate the school's new state of the art facility. The "Celebration of Excellence" event will also provide an ideal opportunity to recognize the outstanding achievement of the school's students and teachers.

The recent release of the New York State English Language Arts exam results highlights the very strong performance of Excellence's all-male student population.

- 92% of Excellence 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students scored advanced or proficient on the 2007 3<sup>rd</sup> grade New York State English Language Arts exam, compared to 67% statewide, 56% across New York City, and 48% in Community School District 16, where the school is located.
- Excellence outperformed every community school district in New York City as well as Suffolk, Westchester, and Nassau counties.
- Excellence is the highest performing school in Community School District 16.

Excellence Principal Jabali Sawicki notes that, "Our results demonstrate that an intense focus on literacy instruction combined with a highly structured and rigorous learning environment will lead to outstanding results and success for all students." While New York State female students outperformed male students by 7 percentage points and white students far outperformed students of color, Excellence has shown clear success in closing the gender and achievement gaps. The student population is 100% male and 96% African American.

The school's permanent home at 225 Patchen Avenue in Bedford Stuyvesant is the former Public School 70 building, which was abandoned more than two decades ago after a major fire. The Robin Hood Foundation and Uncommon Schools, a nonprofit charter management organization, which helped launch Excellence, chose the site and brought together an exceptional team of architects, contractors, public partners and philanthropists, including Robert A.M. Stern Architects, Robert Silman Associates, the New York City Department of Education, and the New York City School Construction Authority. The Preservation League of New York recently recognized Excellence Charter School with an Excellence in Historic Preservation Award for the thoughtful and high-quality restoration of the building. The school will welcome New York City Department of Education Chancellor, Joel I. Klein, Excellence trustees, and many friends and partners to its celebratory event on June 5<sup>th</sup>, which will include dedications of the gymnasium and auditorium.

Excellence Charter School opened in 2004 as New York City's only all-boys public school. The school currently enrolls 170 boys in grades K through 3 and will grow to enroll 600 students in

grades K through 8. The school's mission is to prepare young boys to enter, succeed in, and graduate from outstanding college preparatory high schools and colleges.

Uncommon Schools is a nonprofit charter management organization that starts and manages among the most outstanding urban college preparatory charter schools working to close the achievement gap in the Northeast. Uncommon builds uncommonly great schools by developing and managing regional networks that are philosophically aligned and highly accountable. Based in New York City, the organization has created a home office from which it provides a full complement of management services that allow school leaders to focus on instructional leadership. As of the fall of 2007, Uncommon will manage nine schools in New York City, upstate New York, and Newark, New Jersey. The organization ultimately will encompass more than 30 schools, serving more than 10,000 K to 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

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If you would like additional information on this topic, or to schedule an interview with Excellence Charter School Principal Jabali Sawicki or Uncommon Schools CEO Norman Atkins, please contact Megan C. Zug at 617-645-4063 or by email at [mzug@uncommonschoools.org](mailto:mzug@uncommonschoools.org).