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PRESS RELEASE

**EAST BOSTON CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS
OUTPERFORM THEIR PEERS ON 2005 MCAS**

October 12, 2005. East Boston, MA. For the second year in a row, Excel students outperformed their local peers on the MCAS exam. Excel Academy is a charter, public middle school that has been in operation since September of 2003. Now in its third year, the school is serving 170 middle school students from East Boston and Chelsea, 85% of whom are Latino and 77% of whom qualify for the federal free and reduced price lunch program.

In its second year of operation, Excel Academy again achieved impressive results on the 6th grade math MCAS:

- A higher percentage of Excel students (25%) scored in the Advanced and Proficient categories than students from East Boston (18%), as well as from the districts of Boston (23%) and Chelsea (20%).
- A much higher percentage of Excel students (65%) passed the exam than students from East Boston (36%), as well as students from the districts of Boston (51%) and Chelsea (53%). In fact, the number of Excel students who passed the test is almost double the number of their East Boston peers producing the same results.

Excel Academy's first class of students, who did notably well on the math MCAS last year as sixth graders, posted even stronger scores on the 7th grade English MCAS:

- A much higher percentage of Excel students (64%) scored in the Advanced and Proficient categories than students from East Boston (27%), as well as from the districts of Boston (44%) and Chelsea (34%).
- A much higher percentage of Excel students (93%) passed the exam than students from East Boston (68%), as well as from the districts of Boston (84%) and Chelsea (83%).
- In fact, Excel students' Advanced/Proficient rate (64%) was nearly identical to the state Advanced/Proficient rate of 66%, and our students had the same exact passing rate (93%) as their state peers. This is particularly significant given many of our students speak Spanish at home.

“Our scores are evidence that a structured learning environment—when combined with a rigorous curriculum, focused academic support, and an extended school day and year—promotes academic success,” states Yutaka Tamura, Founder and Executive Director. “Our students have once again shown that in the right environment, every child has the potential to do well in school.”

Excel Academy's results are the outcome of a collaborative effort of students, families and staff. Scott Given, the school's Associate Director adds, “Families commit to taking an active role in their children's education when they enroll at Excel Academy. In return, our staff devotes an extraordinary amount of time and energy to ensure each

student meets the high expectations we hold for them. Our results demonstrate the remarkable impact of that relationship.”

Excel Academy is currently serving seventh and eighth graders and ultimately expects to serve fifth through eighth grade students. The school’s mission is to prepare middle school students to succeed in high school and college, apply their learning to solve relevant problems, and engage productively in their communities.