

Sisulu Children's Academy Posts High Marks on New York State English Test; Tops NYC Average

55% Passing Rate Exceeds New York City and Local District Averages

NEW YORK, July 14, 2004 – Students at Sisulu Children's Academy charter school are now mastering fundamental English skills at a level that exceeds the average for all New York City public school students. On the 2004 New York State fourth-grade English Language Arts test, 55% of Sisulu students met or exceeded State standards in English. Sisulu's passing rate exceeds the New York City average of 50%, and far exceeds the 31% passing rate of NYC Community School District 5 from which Sisulu draws most of its students. This year marks the second year in a row of double-digit gains in Sisulu's performance on the ELA exam. Sisulu now ranks as the highest performing public charter school in Manhattan and ranks #5 among all New York State charter schools established since 1999 and serving high need student populations.

“We are extremely pleased with the results and the success of Sisulu's students and teachers,” said William Allen, chairman of Sisulu's board of trustees. “This year's fourth-grade is the first class of students to begin at Sisulu as kindergarteners and are therefore the best test of Sisulu's educational quality. Sisulu's faculty, board and administrative team have continuously worked to supplement and strengthen the school's instructional program. The result has been a consistent improvement as students, staff and parents build experience with the instructional model.”

“When Sisulu began in 1999, the school's founders pledged to deliver a high quality public education alternative with superior academic results,” said Latasha Fields, president of Sisulu's parent teacher organization. “These promises have now been met. The hard work and dedication of everyone involved has paid off.”

The State University of New York recently extended Sisulu’s charter at all grades based on its success to date. The number of students meeting or exceeding English standards at Sisulu increased by 19% this year, while the New York State average fell by 2%. Over the past two years, Sisulu has averaged a 15.4% annual increase, far above the average State and local gains.

“Our focus has been to harness each child’s natural abilities and interests in acquiring reading and language skills,” said Dr. Norma Figueroa-Hurwitz, the Academy’s principal. “We accomplished this by providing a very rich and dynamic literacy program that makes extensive use of authentic literature and encourages our students to be critical thinkers. We also had an overwhelming commitment to academic excellence on the part of our fourth-grade team and all of our staff.”

2004 NYS Grade 4 ELA

	% Proficient¹	Difference
Sisulu	54.7	
District 3	50.5	+ 4.2
District 4	40.1	+ 14.6
District 5	31.2	+ 23.5
NYC Average	49.6	+ 5.1

(1) Students testing at Levels 3 and 4 (meets or exceeds State standards)

About Victory Schools

Victory Schools is a national leader in public/private school management partnerships. Its schools consistently outperform absolute and relative benchmarks on state and national standardized tests. Victory manages New York State’s top-scoring charter school, Roosevelt Children’s Academy, and three of New York’s top ten charter schools, including three of the top six new charter schools serving high need student populations. Victory has been recognized by



the U.S. Department of Education for the academic success of its charter schools and its work to support educational reform efforts in Philadelphia and other school districts. Victory's mission is to create great schools for America's children through partnerships with state departments of education, local boards of education, teachers, teachers unions, outstanding community groups and parents. The company is unique in its consultative approach to assisting public school districts; its strong emphasis on partnerships with all public education stakeholders; and its desire to provide the highest quality, most personalized service to the schools and districts we serve. Victory was founded in 1999 and is headquartered in New York City. The company currently provides services to 13 public schools serving approximately 5,600 children in New York and Philadelphia. The company is also a senior advisor to the Christina School District, the largest school district in Delaware. For further information, Victory can be contacted at (212) 786-7900 or on the web at www.victoryschools.com.

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