PRESS RELEASE
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S.F. Public Schools Show Greatest Gain in Five Years
Academic Performance Index grows by 16 points

September 13, 2010 (San Francisco) – The San Francisco Unified School District has exceeded its Academic Performance Index (API) targets, improving by 16 points from the base API of 775 to reach a district-wide score of 791. For the 2010 Growth API there were 37,232 students included in the state’s calculations.

Over 86 percent (90 of 104 schools) met or exceeded their school-wide API targets, which is 10 additional schools compared to last year. The greatest success was seen at the middle school level, where 94 percent (15 out of 16 schools) met their school-wide API targets.

Unprecedented growth was seen at the schools with an API state ranking of 1 and 2 or the bottom 20 percent in the state, also called deciles 1 and 2 schools. Of the 32 deciles 1 and 2 schools in SFUSD, 69 percent (22/32) met their API targets.

This year’s test score results demonstrated that the district is narrowing the achievement gap at a greater rate than ever before. The district’s targeted subgroups showed great success: over 82 percent of schools (14/17) with a statistically significant African American enrollment met their subgroup growth targets compared to 37 percent last year (7/19); 63 percent of schools (30/48) with statistically significant Latino enrollment met their subgroup growth target compared to 52 percent last year (25/48); and 78 percent of schools with significant numbers of English Language Learners (62/80) met their subgroup growth target compared to 66 percent last year (41/62).

San Francisco Board of Education president Jane Kim commended the city’s principals and teachers and noted the tremendous growth at the district’s historically low-performing schools.

“Those who teach our children have one of the most important jobs there is. I especially want to thank our educators who work with our most underserved students -- you are reaching students and these results demonstrate that they are learning the standards,” says Kim.

The highest rate of improvement was seen at elementary school Malcolm X Academy with its growth of 108 points to reach an API of 800. Malcolm X, in the Bayview neighborhood, has had a dedicated team of teachers, community partners and service providers working with their small student population (47 students took the STAR tests) to help raise achievement at the school. Both Fairmount Elementary and Sherman Elementary Schools also saw large growth with 78 and 74 points greater than their base, respectively.

The highest rates of improvement at the middle school level were seen at the charter school KIPP Bayview Academy (69), Francisco (42), and Visitacion Valley (40 points). At the high school level, Ida B. Wells grew by 72 points; Mission by 70 and Ruth Asawa School of the Arts by 64.
Three of the schools with the greatest growth (Mission, Visitacion Valley and Malcolm X) are designated by the district as STAR schools due to historically low performance, which means they receive additional funding for instructional coaches and student support services.

Superintendent Carlos Garcia attributed the district’s biggest gains in five years to the collective efforts of students, teachers, and principals as well as the district staff and community partners who support them.

“I am proud of the work everyone in our community has been doing to support our students,” says Garcia. “A few years ago we set out to raise the level of academic engagement and rigor and to close the achievement gap. We invited everyone to be a part of providing quality schools for every child in this city. Now, we are starting to reap the rewards of our shared vision and responsibility. Though we still have a long way to go, these gains are something for all of us to celebrate.”

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Targets Not Met

District-wide, SFUSD did not meet the federal government’s Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) goal. The bar is reset higher every year under No Child Left Behind and the district only met 39 out of 50 criteria, which means it continues to be in Program Improvement 3. For school site AYP, 38 percent of the schools (38/100) met their criteria, which includes meeting the increased proficiency rates in both English Language Arts and Math.

And, while African American, Latino, and Special Education students made notable progress, they did not meet the increased federal proficiency rates set for this year in both English Language Arts and Math.

For AYP percent proficient calculations, there were 29,575 English Language Arts scores and 29,534 math scores.

Criteria for API and AYP

The API is a numeric index that ranges from a low of 200 to a high of 1000. The previous year’s results establish the baseline and academic growth targets for each school's academic performance for the next year. A school's annual growth target is set at five percent of the difference between the school's base API and the statewide performance target of 800 with a minimum target of 5 points. By law, numerically significant student subgroups within a school must also make improvement for a school to meet its API targets.

Both the API and AYP are based on statewide assessment results, which were released last month. These assessments include the Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program and California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE).

AYP encompasses four areas: participation rate, the percent proficient (also referred to as Annual Measurable Objectives), the school’s API as an additional indicator for AYP, and graduation rate. Each of these four areas includes specific requirements. Participation rate and percent proficient criteria must be met in both English-language arts (ELA) and in Mathematics.

In AYP, the federal government measures what percentage of students are scoring at proficient and above; and the percentage required goes up each year by about 10 percent.

(more)
SFUSD
5-Year Trend for Academic Performance Index (API)

SFUSD African American Students
5-Year Trend for Academic Performance Index (API)
Deciles 1 and 2 are schools with an API state ranking of 1 and 2 or the bottom 20% in the state.

**SFUSD Latino Students**

5-Year Trend for Academic Performance Index (API)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent Met API Target</th>
<th>(N)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>58.8%</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>46.6%</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>42.3%</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>62.5%</td>
<td>48</td>
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**SFUSD English Learner Students**

5-Year Trend for Academic Performance Index (API)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent Met API Target</th>
<th>(N)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>74.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>63.2%</td>
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<td>2007-08</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>77.5%</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Deciles 1 and 2 are schools with an API state ranking of 1 and 2 or the bottom 20% in the state.