



For Immediate Release
September 15, 2009

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FAME PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL REPORTS HIGHEST API SCORE SINCE INCEPTION

*FAME leads the way in closing the achievement gap in Alameda County's
traditionally underserved immigrant community*

Fremont, CA – FAME Public Charter School (FAME), now in its fifth year, has recorded its highest Academic Performance Index (API) growth score since its inception with an API growth score this year of 743. Serving a predominately new immigrant community from the Middle East and Southeast Asia, FAME has shown continued academic improvement, particularly with its English Learner (EL) student population. It exceeded its API growth target and increased the percentage of its students reported as “proficient” or “advanced” in all subject areas.

FAME has reported rising API scores three of the past four years. The percentage of students proficient or advanced grew 2-6 percentage points in all subject areas from 2008 to 2009. FAME is the only countywide charter serving Alameda County's traditionally underserved immigrant students. With a focus on college preparation and English language intervention, FAME offers a K-12 educational program targeted to meet the needs of Alameda's Middle Eastern and Southeast Asian community.

While improving in performance across all subjects, FAME experienced its strongest academic gains with its EL student population. With approximately a quarter (26 percent) of its students categorized as EL whose native languages are Arabic, Urdu, Farsi or Pashto, FAME works towards proficiency through its EL intervention program. EL students at FAME are achieving English language proficiency at higher rates than English Learners attending schools in the districts where they reside. For the 2008-2009 school year, FAME re-designated nearly 28 percent of its previous EL students as fluent English proficient. In 2009, FAME re-designated 184 students previously classified as EL as fluent – an over 200% increase versus the previous year – and 67% of the newly re-designated students performed at proficient or better on state exams.

“We are proud of the growing success of all of our students,” said Maram Alaiwat, Founder and CEO of FAME Public Charter School. “Despite the many challenges our students face, they are

working hard every day in the classroom. FAME's success in serving Alameda County's underserved immigrant community is success for all county schools. As we enter our charter renewal year, we look forward to continuing to serve Alameda County over the next decade."

With three school campuses located throughout Alameda County as well as an independent study program, FAME serves 1,500 students in grades K-12. FAME focuses on English and Arabic fluency at all grade levels, offering all of its students the opportunity to become proficient in a second language, starting as early as kindergarten. FAME attracts students from seven counties, as well as fifteen school districts within Alameda County, including Fremont Unified, Oakland Unified, Hayward Unified, San Leandro Unified, New Haven Unified and Newark Unified.

About the Academic Performance Index

Academic Performance Index (API) is given to each school and district to summarize its academic achievement level based on student performance on statewide assessments across multiple subject areas. California's goal for all schools is 800 and measures the growth of the school from one year to the next. It is based on the performance of the students at the school who were enrolled for a "full academic year."

About FAME Public Charter School

FAME Public Charter School (FAME) was founded in 2005 as the first and only countywide charter serving Alameda County. A high-achieving charter school specializing in getting its students fluent in English and Arabic, FAME currently operates three public charter school campuses, as well as an independent study program. FAME serves Alameda County's diverse immigrant population, with the goal of preparing all its students to graduate and attend college. FAME strives to create an education community where students from all social, academic and economic backgrounds can learn to their highest potential. Visit FAME at www.famecharter.org.

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