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## 93% OF PARENTS GIVE CONNECTIONS ACADEMY, LEADING VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROVIDER, TOP MARKS FOR EIGHTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

*-- 94% of Parents Recommend the Virtual Academy to Other Parents; Praise Teachers, Academic Rigor --*

Baltimore, MD, July 29, 2010 – Connections Academy, <http://www.connectionsacademy.com>, a leading national provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual public and private schools in the U.S. for students in grades K–12, continues to get high marks from parents, results of a recent survey show. In its 2009-2010 Parent Satisfaction Survey, an overwhelming 93% of parents gave the overall Connections Academy (CA) program an “A” or “B” grade. 2009-2010 marks the eighth consecutive school year that at least 90% of CA parents graded the [virtual schools](#) so highly – and recommend CA to other parents.

This strong vote of support from CA parents reflects the program’s continued success, even as more CA schools are in operation -- and serving more students -- than ever. Connections Academy has operated its national network of [virtual schools](#) since 2002, and has grown by double digits each year since then, thanks to booming demand for its high quality, highly accountable virtual schools. CA served approximately 25,000 full-time students during the 2009-2010 school year. In 2010–2011 the Connections Academy public school network will span 18 virtual K–12 schools in 17 states, and its nationwide private school, National Connections Academy, will serve students throughout the U.S.



**Connections Academy teachers received high marks in the virtual school’s 2009-2010 annual Parent Satisfaction Survey**

**CA's extraordinary quality ratings stand well above public school ratings from the 2009 Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward The Public Schools, in which only 74% of public school parents gave the public school their oldest child attends an "A" or a "B" grade.<sup>1</sup>**

Further underscoring how pleased parents are with CA schools, 85% of parents reported being 'more satisfied' with the CA program than their child's/children's previous school. 94% of parents recommend CA to other parents whose children are not enrolled in the school.

CA parents also gave the program high marks for its academic rigor, program flexibility, the high quality of its [teachers](#), and for delivering high levels of student achievement. An impressive 93% of parents reported that their children are making good academic progress, arguably the keenest evaluation of a child's education. 97% said they were pleased with their children's teachers, and specifically praised their responsiveness, accessibility and professionalism. 96% of survey respondents praised the CA curriculum, rating it "excellent" or "good."

"At Connections Academy we are committed to providing the best possible educational experience for our students and their families. So I am especially pleased to learn that, once again, parents with students enrolled in our schools have rated Connections Academy so highly," notes Barbara Dreyer, president and CEO of Connections Academy. "Our annual Parent Satisfaction Survey is just one of the many and ongoing ways in which we assess our virtual school program and maintain a dialogue with families. We take the results very seriously and carefully analyze and consider the findings as we enhance our program. In particular, I am very proud that over 96% of parents are pleased with their children's teachers as I believe that our dedicated team of teachers really sets us apart from other virtual schools. Also, the fact that over 94% of parents recommend Connections Academy to other families suggests that our schools are successfully meeting the need for innovative and individualized learning – a positive alternative to the traditional classroom."

**Enrollment for the 2010-2011 school year is going on now and interested families are encouraged to attend one of the many in-person or real-time online information sessions taking place throughout the summer. Visit [www.ConnectionsAcademy.com](http://www.ConnectionsAcademy.com) to learn more.**

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<sup>1</sup>William J. Bushaw and John A. McNee, The 41st Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward the Public Schools Americans Speak Out: Are Educators and Policy Makers Listening?, *Phi Delta Kappa*, Vol. 91, No. 01, September 2009, pp.8-23.

## **Survey methodology**

Connections Academy conducts its annual Parent Satisfaction Survey to find out how its parents, guardians and Learning Coaches grade the program in several key areas. The 2009 -2010 survey was conducted in the spring of 2010 by L.J. Shapiro & Associates, an independent market research company, which hosted the online questionnaire, collected the data, and tabulated the results. No individual responses were accessible to Connections Academy. Parents of all currently enrolled students were invited to complete the survey. A WebMail invitation was sent to each parent, and one response per household was submitted. Over 8,000 responses, representing close to 60% percent of all households in the CA program, were received.

## **About Connections Academy**

Connections Academy is a leading national provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual public and private schools in the U.S. for students in grades K–12. Connections Academy schools deliver top quality, personalized education for students that combines certified teachers, a proven curriculum, technology tools, and community experiences to create a supportive and successful environment for children who want an individualized approach to education. In Connections Academy's Personalized Performance Learning® approach, students use daily lesson plans and curriculum materials provided by Connections Academy. Teachers develop a learning plan for each student, whose progress is tracked through a proprietary, web-based Learning Management System. In the 2010–2011 school year, Connections Academy will serve students in Arizona, California (Southern and Central), Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming through its public school programs. It serves students in all states in the U.S. through the online private school, National Connections Academy. Connections Academy offers grades K through 12, though some schools do not offer all grades. For more information, call 800-382-6010 or visit [www.ConnectionsAcademy.com](http://www.ConnectionsAcademy.com).

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