



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Wisconsin Connections Academy Again Reaches State and Federal Accountability Standards

Appleton, Wis. – Wisconsin Connections Academy (WCA), the state’s original K-8 tuition-free, highly accountable virtual public school, has met the federal mandated *No Child Left Behind* in reading, math and overall Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measures for the 2006-07 school year. This is the third consecutive year that WCA has met AYP measures, which are based on standardized test participation and performance by all categories of students in a school, from low-income students to gifted and talented students to children with disabilities.

“Meeting AYP means we are finding effective ways to use our innovative learning technology to ensure individualized academic success for our diverse body of students,” said Michelle Mueller, WCA administrator. “Accomplishing our goals for growth and improvement demonstrates our dedication to providing our students and families with the highest quality education. I am proud of our exceptional, highly qualified teachers and our excellent students.”

WCA opened in 2002 and in the 2006-2007 school year served approximately 450 students in kindergarten through eighth grade in communities throughout Wisconsin.

To help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards, students follow an individual learning plan at home under the guidance of a certified district teacher, along with the oversight of a parent or guardian.

Students utilize similar resources as their bricks-and-mortar school counterparts – textbooks, lesson plans, online resources and other curriculum materials – and teachers instruct using tools such as the Internet and telephone.

According to Mueller, WCA students are continually challenged in the academic arena and thrive with strong parental involvement, along with the expertise and accountability of public education. “The school’s flexible scheduling allows students to participate more easily in athletics, the arts, volunteer work and community activities,” said Mueller. “Connections between students, parents and teachers are enhanced through in-person field trips and gatherings.”

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About Wisconsin Connections Academy

Wisconsin Connections Academy is a virtual charter school authorized and operated by the Appleton Area School District (AASD). The school is approved as a nonprofit corporation and is advised by an independent Board of Directors. The school accepts students in grades K-8 from anywhere in Wisconsin. WCA offers the complete Connections Academy program.

About Connections Academy

Connections Academy is a leading national provider of high quality, highly accountable virtual public schools in 13 states operated in partnership with charter schools, school districts, and state departments of education. 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 unique 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 2007-08 Connections Academy will serve students in grades K-11 in Arizona, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Ohio, Oregon, Maryland (Baltimore County), and Pennsylvania; grades 4-11 in Nevada; grades K-9 in Colorado; grades K-8 in Florida and Wisconsin; grades K-5 in Missouri. For more information, call 800-382-6010 or visit www.connectionsacademy.com.

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