Connections Academy Receives Top Grades From Parents and Students for 7th Consecutive Year

Leading K-12 Virtual Public School Praised for General Excellence, Teachers, Student Achievement and Academic Rigor

BALTIMORE, MD (August 11, 2009) — Connections Academy (CA), a leading national operator of high-quality, highly accountable K-12 virtual public schools, continues to get high marks from parents and students alike, a new study shows. In its 2008–09 Parent Satisfaction Survey, CA, the highly-regarded public school alternative, almost 93 percent of parents in all Connections Academy schools gave the CA program an overall grade of “A” or “B.” And by a small margin, parents say that even more students rated the school highly: 96% of students were “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with CA schools.

This marks the seventh consecutive year—and every year since Connections Academy began serving students—that at least nine out of 10 Connections Academy parents surveyed have given the school an “A” or “B.” These extraordinary quality ratings stand well above ratings from the 40th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public’s Attitudes Toward the Public Schools, in which 72% of parents gave the public school their oldest child attends an “A” or a “B” grade.*

85% of CA parents say they are more satisfied with CA schools than their child’s previous school. This continued, overwhelming vote of support from CA parents reflects the program’s ongoing success, even as more CA schools are in operation—and serving more students—than ever. Since 2002, CA has been operating virtual public schools that deliver an exceptional public school education from the comfort of home. Since that time, its student enrollment has skyrocketed from 400 to more than 16,000 served in 2008–09, while its school network has exploded from two to 15 schools, across 14 states: Arizona, California (Southern and Central), Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

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. 92% of parents reported that their children are making good academic progress, arguably the keenest evaluation of a child's education. 96% said they were pleased with their children’s teachers, specifically praising their responsiveness. More than 96% of survey respondents praised the CA curriculum, rating it “excellent” or “good.” Finally, 95% of CA parents actively recommend the program to other families whose children are not currently enrolled in the program.

“A high level of parental involvement is a hallmark of Connections Academy that sets us apart from other schools, and we conduct our annual Parent Satisfaction Survey as part of our ongoing efforts to maintain an active educator/parent dialogue about the program,” notes Barbara Dreyer, president of Connections Academy. “We are pleased and gratified that Connections Academy families continue to give our program such all-around high marks from both parents and students. Connections Academy is filling a real educational need for American
families across the country by delivering a high-quality, highly accountable educational program that helps children achieve success.”

Survey Methodology
Connections Academy conducts its annual Parent Satisfaction Survey to find out how its parents grade the program in several key areas. The 2008-09 survey was conducted in Spring 2009 by L.J. Shapiro & Associates, an independent market research company, which created the 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. An email invitation was sent to each parent, and one response per household was submitted. Responses were received from approximately 65 percent of all households in the CA program.

*40th Annual Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup Poll of the Public's Attitudes Toward The Public Schools; William J. Bushaw and Alec M. Gallup, September, 2008

About Connections Academy
Connections Academy is a leading national provider of high-quality, highly accountable virtual public schools in fourteen 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 Personalized Performance Learning® approach, students use daily lesson plans and curriculum materials provided by Connections Academy. Teachers develop a learning plan for each student, utilizing a proprietary, web-based Learning Management System to deliver, track, and administer the learning. In 2009-10 Connections Academy will serve students in Arizona, California (Southern and Central), Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Wisconsin and Wyoming. 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.