



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Thurgood Marshall Academy Makes AYP in Both Reading and Math with Significant Gains over Last Year's DC CAS Scores**

**Washington, DC, 7/11/2008**—Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School (TMA), Washington DC's first and only law-related public school, made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) in both reading and math for school year 2007–08. In the District, AYP is determined based on student performance on the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) annual assessment.

Results indicate that 70.19% of TMA students were proficient in reading (up from 42.59% in SY 2006–07) and 60.58% of TMA students were proficient in math (up from 50.00% in SY 2006–07). These scores represent a 28-point gain in reading and an 11-point gain in math compared to last year's scores. One-hundred percent of TMA's tenth-grade students were tested.

TMA's impressive results illustrate the benefits of a rigorous, extended-day program which includes an extensive internal benchmark examination system that is closely aligned to the DC CAS standards. The school uses the results from its benchmark assessment system to guide instruction both in the classroom as well as during mandatory supplemental, after-school instruction. TMA has a full-time Quality Assurance Manager who is responsible for collecting, analyzing, and reporting on student performance data so that all instructors have access to real time data about how their students are learning.

"I am very proud of our students' performance. They have worked so hard and these results are a validation of their enormous efforts," said Alexandra Pardo, Academic Director and the administrator responsible for overseeing TMA's assessment system.

"The gains we are seeing in the data each year confirm the value of TMA's program and are strong evidence that we are on the right track to having all of our students achieve at the proficient level," said Joshua Kern, Co-Founder and President.

#### ***About Thurgood Marshall Academy***

Thurgood Marshall Academy is a college-preparatory, law-related public charter high school founded on U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall's belief that all children have the right to a first-class education. Thurgood Marshall Academy, which serves students in the most impoverished ward in the city, helps students develop their own voice by teaching them the skills lawyers have—the ability to solve complex problems, think critically, and advocate persuasively for themselves and their communities. Thurgood Marshall Academy integrates a rigorous curriculum with in-school and after-school support programming such as tutoring, mentoring, and one-on-one college guidance, and 100% of our first four graduating classes have been accepted to college.

For further information on Thurgood Marshall Academy's DC CAS results or its assessment systems please visit the school's Web site at [www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org](http://www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org).

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