



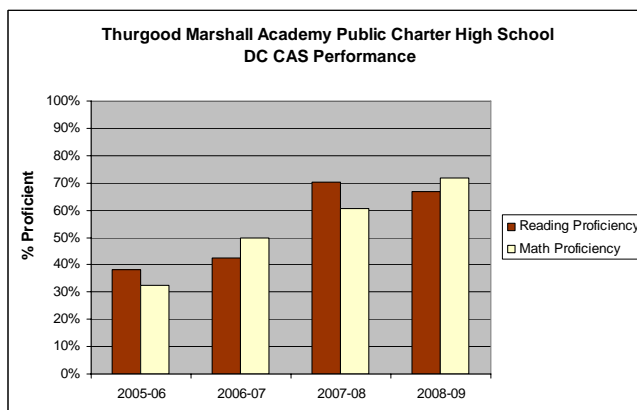
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Thurgood Marshall Academy Makes Adequate Yearly Progress for Second Straight Year

Washington, DC, 8/14/2009—Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter High School, 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 the second straight year, becoming the first high school in Washington, D.C. to exit school improvement status under NCLB. In the District, AYP is determined based on student performance on the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS) annual assessment.



2009 DC CAS test scores show that 67% of Thurgood Marshall Academy students were proficient in reading and 72% of Thurgood Marshall Academy students were proficient in math. These scores represent a 29-point gain in reading proficiency and 40-point gain in math proficiency over a period of three years, making Thurgood Marshall Academy first in math and second in reading among DC open enrollment high schools.

“Our students have once again risen to the challenge. These DC CAS scores are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, parents, faculty, and staff and illustrates what is possible using data-driven instruction,” said Alexandra Pardo, Thurgood Marshall Academy’s Academic Director.

Thurgood Marshall Academy’s test 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 standards. The school uses the results from its benchmark assessment system to guide instruction both in the classroom as well as during supplemental after-school instruction. Thurgood Marshall Academy 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.

As the DC CAS scores show, the results of methods employed at Thurgood Marshall Academy have affected the entire student body. Shelina Scriber, a rising 11th grader, was reading on a fourth grade level when she began her freshman year at Thurgood Marshall Academy in 2007. After two years, Shelina is reading on grade-level and scored proficient in reading on the DC CAS.

“Ms. Jones pushed me harder than I have ever been pushed before,” said Scriber, describing her tenth-grade English teacher. “Instead of having me read 10th grade material, she had me reading 11th and 12th grade material.”

Jones highlights other reasons for the success of Scriber and students like her, “We are very good at identifying weaknesses and strengths and we do that by pre-tests and continual post-tests. As teachers we have outstanding resources and support.” Thurgood Marshall Academy’s successful implementation of data-driven instruction practices recently led the school to receive a Charter Schools Program Dissemination Grant from the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to disseminate best practices in this area.

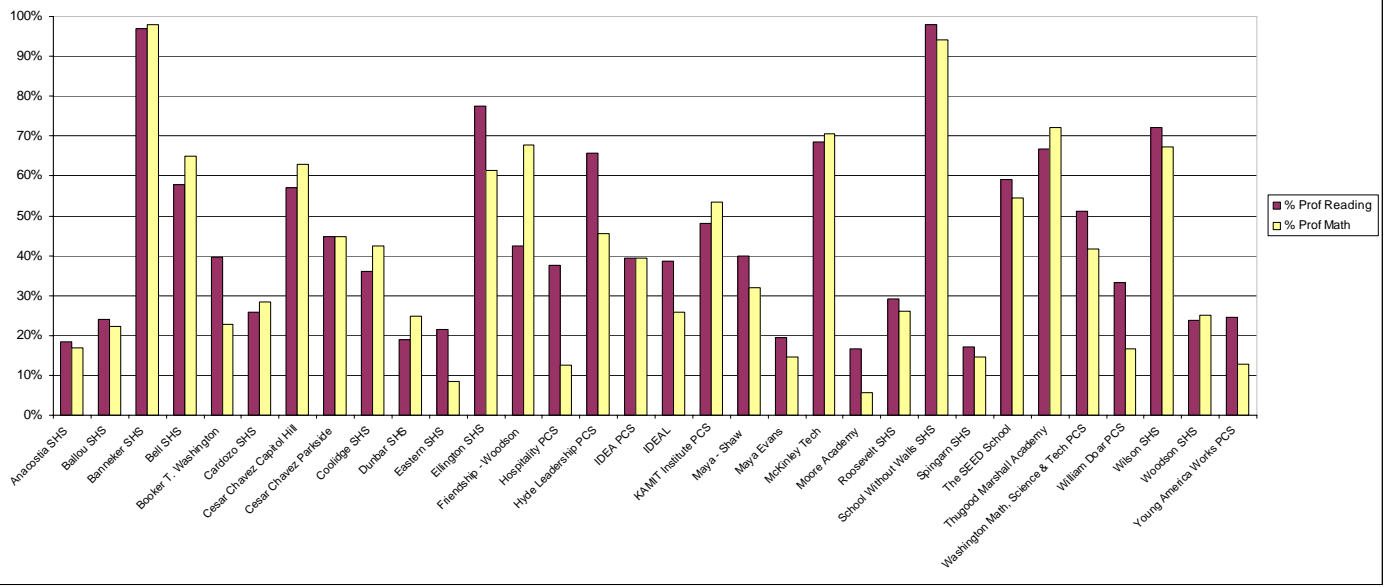
“At one time I didn’t think I was going to be able to come so far,” said Scriber. “The work at Thurgood Marshall Academy is very challenging, but it’s worth it. It feels good to have improved so much.”

About Thurgood Marshall Academy

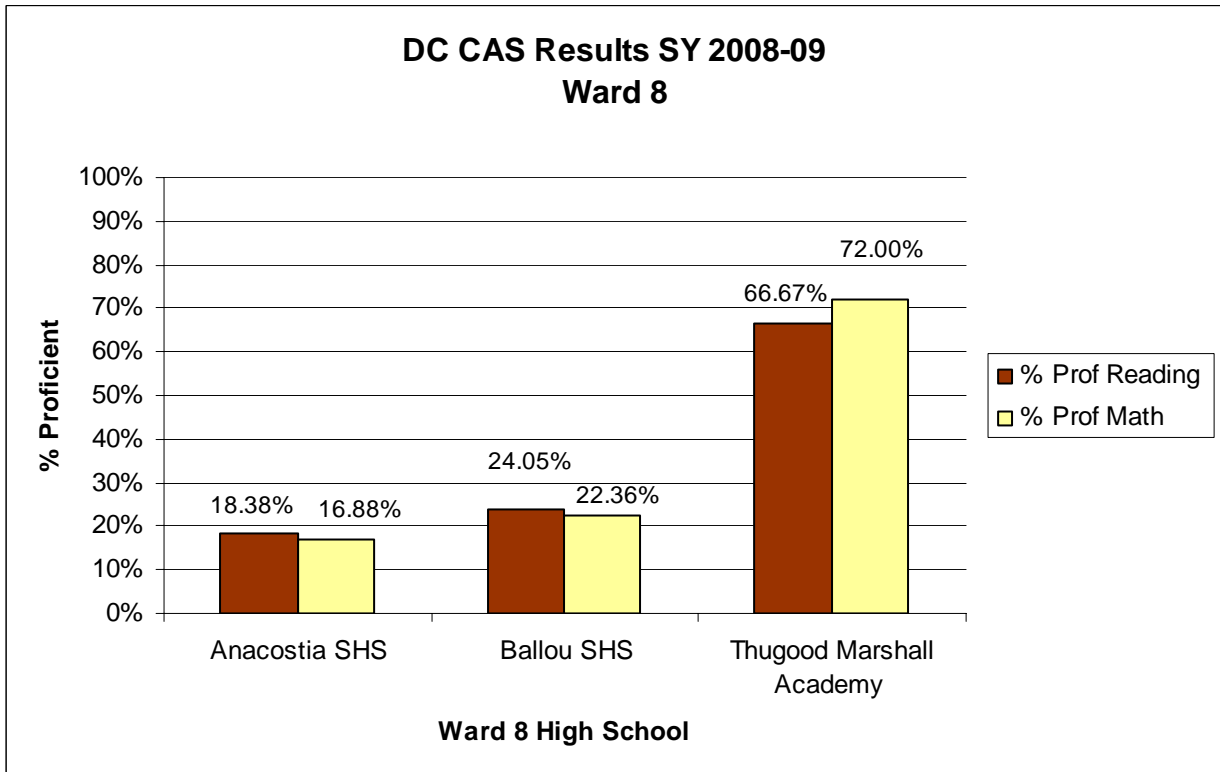
Thurgood Marshall Academy is a college-preparatory, law-related public charter high school founded on U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall’s belief that all children have the right to a first-class education. Thurgood Marshall Academy, which serves students in the most impoverished ward in the 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. One hundred percent of the school’s first five 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 website at www.thurgoodmarshallacademy.org.

10th Grade DC CAS Scores SY 2008-09



DC CAS Results SY 2008-09 Ward 8



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