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The Washington Teachers' Union Congratulates Teachers for Their Role in Improving DC Public Schools Test Scores

Washington, DC – The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU) today congratulates DC teachers for their hard work and commitment in improving students' test scores. Earlier this week it was announced that the number of schools making adequate yearly progress (AYP) in reading and math under the federal No Child Left Behind law rose to 47 from 31 and that DC public schools (DCPS) students made significant achievement gains during the past academic year.

Preliminary data released this week by DCPS showed significant gains in student achievement on the latest tests measuring school progress under the No Child Left Behind law. Spring test results showed that the percentage of elementary school students proficient in reading is up eight points and 11 points in math and the percentage of secondary students scoring proficient was up nine points in both categories.

With the closing of 23 schools, restructuring of 27 schools and a new Chancellor during the 2007-2008 school year, teachers were confronted with the most significant disruption and change within the school system in the past 25 years. Even though they faced these obstacles, they continued to work diligently to improve academic achievement. Using the D.C. Comprehensive Assessment System (DC-CAS), part of an effort to upgrade instruction by aligning testing with new learning standards, teachers tested students, analyzed data from practice tests and then re-taught material that students got wrong.

“Real success happens in the classroom and substantial credit must be given to our teachers,” said WTU President George Parker. “The steady progress of DCPS test scores is a testament to the competence, commitment and perseverance of our teachers in spite of the many challenges they face each and every day. As a result of their performance and commitment to the children, DCPS test scores are now equivalent to scores from other school systems in several major cities.”

The Washington Teachers' Union (WTU), representing more than 4,000 DC public schools teachers, is dedicated to improving the working environment for DCPS teachers so that they can provide a quality education for all District of Columbia school children.

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