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## Charter School of Educational Excellence

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260 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10701  
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**For Immediate Release**

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***October 23, 2011- Yonkers, NY. The Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE)***

located at 260 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers is invited to host a school visitation for the New York State Reading Association (NYSRA) that is holding its 45<sup>th</sup> annual conference at the Rye Town Hilton in Rye Brook, NY. The theme for this year's NYSRA conference is "*Literacy Connections*". As winners of the *New York State Exemplary Reading Program Award*, the Charter of Educational Excellence is honored to be selected to showcase its model program to 15-20 pedagogues that are coming from all over the country to conduct classroom observations of CSEE's implementation of its morning literacy block.

*"It is a true testament that our school is exceptional when other educational organizations are asking for our expertise"*, stated Mr. Eduardo LaGuerre, Chairman and founder of the school, when he heard about the NYSRA visit to CSEE.

A distinguished group of CSEE administrators and teachers are presenting a workshop at the NYSRA conference entitled, "*Best Practices in Literacy Achievement*" on Monday, October 25, 2011. The workshop is intended to give participants a 'teacher's perspective' on promoting literacy in ways that are practical and have proven successful at CSEE.

Sharing their knowledge and expertise are CSEE seasoned staff Mrs. Cindy Lopez who will explain her effective data collection strategies and how data informs instruction, Ms. Margaret O'Donnell who will be modeling the implementation of her successful '*Book in a Bag*' program, Ms. Emily Yedowitz who will share strategies on creating effective flexible groups, Dr. Alice Siegel, who will explain the role of the ELA consultant and Ms. Catalina Castillo who will be presenting an overview of CSEE's reading program and taking participants through a timeline of where CSEE was in 2005 and where it is today.



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Having achieved remarkable gains resulting in student achievement rates increasing by 121% from 2005-2009 on New York State English Language Arts Assessments, CSEE has best practices to share with other practitioners in the field on promoting literacy in children.

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### ***About the Charter School of Educational Excellence***

The Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE) was the first public charter school to be approved in the Yonkers City school district. CSEE is a free public school open to all children through a random lottery admissions process. The school opened its doors in September 2005 and currently serves approximately 580 students in grades K-8. In January 2009, CSEE received the maximum term of charter renewal, 5 years, from the New York State Board of Regents.

CSEE also won the prestigious *New York State Exemplary Reading Program Award* in 2010 and in that same year, the NYSED S3TAIR Project validated CSEE as an "*Effective Practice Mentor School in Literacy*". The grant awarded to CSEE for its exceptional demonstration of promoting reading achievement will help fund mentoring and professional development opportunities with a school in need of improvement in Wappinger Falls, NY.

The School's success has led to the expansion of its programs to middle school and the construction of a 12.5 million; three-story state-of-the-art building that will serve an additional 300 more students at full capacity. The expansion is equipped with a gymnasium and stage, science lab, and a media center/library. This monumental 28,000 square-foot construction project was financed through tax-exempt bonds.

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### ***About the New York State Reading Association***

NYSRA's mission is to promote a literate, democratic society valuing lifelong learning for its diverse cultures.

The New York State Reading Association is an affiliate of the International Reading Association comprised of more than 30 local reading councils having a total membership of over 2,500 educators from across New York State. The organization includes classroom teachers, librarians, reading specialists, parents, college educators, and researchers.

Each year, educators from across the state come together at the annual conference. Throughout the duration of this conference, there are discussion groups, workshops, and featured speakers from around the country.