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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE....**

**CHARTER SCHOOL OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE  
RECEIVES FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL**

*New York State's Board of Regents extends Yonkers school charter to June 2013*

**YONKERS, N.Y., April 11, 2009** - The **New York State Board of Regents** renewed the charter of the **Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE)** for the maximum five-year term on Monday. The renewal extends the current charter through the 2012–2013 school year. The Board of Regents cited the improvement in learning and achievement CSEE's students have demonstrated, the educational benefit students receive who attend the school, and the school's educational and fiscal soundness. **Located in Yorkers, CSEE was the first public charter school in the city of Yonkers school district.**

“CSEE has had an immense impact on the education of the children of Yonkers,” **said Eduardo LaGuerre, board chair of the Charter School of Educational Excellence.** “In the schools four years of operation, we have not only provided a choice in education for Yonkers’ parents, but have also had a very positive impact in our students’ lives, both academically and personally.”

Established in 2005, **CSEE currently serves kindergarten through sixth grade.** During the school's initial charter, CSEE achieved Adequate Yearly Progress as determined by the No Child Left Behind Act in both English and math. On the 2007-2008 New York State English and math assessment exams, CSEE made significant gains not only in comparison with the previous year's

results, but also against the Yonkers City school district. CSEE's fourth and sixth grade classes outperformed the district on both the State ELA and math exams, while the third grade class outperformed the district on the math exam.

"The academic improvement of the students at CSEE has been exceptional," said **Catalina Castillo, principal of CSEE**. "We are very excited about the renewal and look forward to even greater success in the future."

***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 350 students in grades K-6. CSEE offers an extended day, art, music and foreign language.

For more information about the Charter School of Educational Excellence, please call (914) 761-7111.

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