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**RECORD NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR SUCCESS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOLS REPRESENTS ALMOST 40 PERCENT INCREASE**

Lack of High-Quality Schools Drives All-Time High Demand from Families in Harlem, the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, even Manhattan's Upper West Side

**March 23, 2015 (New York, NY)** — Demonstrating a keen demand for high-quality public schools, New York City families are applying to Success Academy Charter Schools in record numbers this year. Still ten days away from the deadline, the top-performing public charter school network has received more than 19,000 unique applications for 2,688 open seats this fall — about seven applications for every open seat — leaving thousands of disappointed families seeking better educational options without an alternative to their zoned schools. To date, applications are up 38 percent (and rising) over last year, and represent a 57 percent from two years ago.

Parent demand comes from every corner of the five boroughs, including all 32 school districts, with more than 7,800 applications for kindergarten alone. While areas of the Bronx and Central Brooklyn — where there are high concentrations of the city's worst schools — showed strongest demand, an extraordinary number of applicants came from District 3, covering Manhattan's Upper West Side and typically known for its "good" schools.

"These numbers reveal the sad truth about the lack of educational options in New York City," said Success Academy founder and CEO Eva Moskowitz. "Parents are desperate for better schools. It's heart-breaking that the waitlists just grow longer each year."

Last fall, Success Academy was approved to open four new schools this year, which could have created an additional 600 new seats, but the Department of Education was unable to provide space until 2016.

Highlights:

**Providing High-Quality Options for Families**

- Success Academy received high numbers of applications from neighborhoods with concentrations of schools with low proficiency rates in math and English, underscoring parent demand for better options.

Community School District	Region	Residents Who Applied to SA	Math Proficiency At District Schools	ELA Proficiency at District Schools
District 9	South Bronx	1,286	14%	12%
District 11	West Bronx	996	22%	20%
District 10	East Bronx	993	20%	17%
District 17	Central Brooklyn	951	20%	20%
District 29	Southeast Queens	951	24%	23%

- There were **9 school districts** where at least 20% of the traditional district school kindergarten population applied to Success Academy.
- Success Academy’s Bronx schools received more than 11 applications per available seat.

### Queens

- Success Academy opened its first two schools in Queens, SA Rosedale and SA Springfield Gardens, in 2014.
- This year, those schools received 1,752 unique applications for 140 seats, or nearly 13 applications per seat.

### SA Bensonhurst

- In its first year, SA Bensonhurst became an extremely popular and successful school in South Brooklyn — based in large part on its extraordinary diversity. Scholars are 60% white, 22% African American, 9% Asian, 6% multi-racial and 3% other. Additionally, 23% of scholars identify as Hispanic.
- SA Bensonhurst received 481 applications from District 21 parents for 66 open seats — more than 7 applications per seat from in-district families alone.

### SA Upper West

- SA Upper West is one of the most high-performing, diverse, and sought-after schools in New York City.
- Located in District 3, known for its “good” schools, SA Upper West received a total of 2,369 applications for 109 new seats, with 568 applications from District 3 residents alone — more than 5 in-district applications per seat.
- SA received one application for every 3.2 kindergarten seats at non-charter schools in District 3.
- SA received 244 applications from parents who live in the zones of the 5 top-performing Upper West Side elementary schools:
  - PS 87 = 49 apps
  - PS 9 = 35 apps
  - PS 199 = 66 apps
  - PS 166 = 43 apps
  - PS 163 = 51 apps
- SA Upper West scholars are 45% white, 23% multi-racial, 18% Black, 6% Asian and 7% other. In addition, 22% of scholars identified as Hispanic.

### **English Language Learners**

- SA received 2,195 applications from self-identified English Language Learners (11% of the total)

### **Pre-K**

- Success Academy will offer pre-k for the first time this year, with classes at Success Academy Harlem 1, SA Cobble Hill, and SA Williamsburg. More than 2,556 unique applications were received for 72 pre-k seats — **more than 35 applications per seat.**

A random admissions lottery will be held in early April, and families will be notified by mail whether or not their children received a seat. The organization will maintain a waitlist for children who do not immediately gain enrollment.

### **ABOUT SUCCESS ACADEMY**

Founded in 2006, Success Academy is a free public charter school network with the dual mission of building world-class public schools across New York City and advancing education reform across the country. Success Academy operates 32 schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. Admission is open to all New York City families. Students are admitted by random lottery, held each April. Across the Success Academy network of K-12 schools, 76% of students are from low-income households; 8.5% are English Language Learners, and 12% are special needs students. About 94% of students are children of color.

Ranked in the top 1% of all New York State schools in math and the top 3% in English Language Arts on last year's state exams, Success Academy has reversed the achievement gap for African-American and Hispanic students. On the 2014 state exams, 94% of Success Academy's African-American students and 96% of its Hispanic students were proficient in math, compared with 68% and 56%, respectively, for the city's Asian and white students. For more information about Success Academy, go to [www.successacademies.org](http://www.successacademies.org).