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Lafayette Academy Charter School Exceeds Student Achievement Goals with Help of TargetTeach

Achievement levels indicators of principal's and teachers' strong commitment to creating a stable school environment for students

Lafayette, LA (June 1, 2009) – Lafayette Academy Charter School has overcome the difficulties associated with post-Katrina poverty and homelessness, varied teacher experience, and dismal test scores with the help of new school principal Mickey Landry and school reform company Evans Newton Incorporated (ENI). Landry, now in his second year in the school, hired ENI after he learned about the company from Lake Forest Charter Elementary School in New Orleans. Lake Forest's CEO/Principal enlisted ENI to help her school grow student achievement through ENI's TargetTeach process and instructional materials.

Lafayette Academy is a large, open enrollment charter school with 750 students in grades K—7. The student body is 25 percent special populations, 98 percent poverty and 48 percent technically homeless. Landry hired ENI to focus all of the school's educators on instruction that is directly correlated to state standards by using ENI's TargetTeach process and teacher coaching. By doing so, the school has increased performance of all grade levels in the areas of reading, math, social studies and science. Prior to Katrina, fewer than 30% of the students passed the LEAP test and in the 06/07 school year only 40% passed the test. Last year 82 percent passed the test and this year the school is estimating 90 percent of the students will pass the LEAP test.

According to Landry, "We had our fourth-grade teachers extremely focused, but we needed a system for helping all of our other teachers, some with very diverse

experience levels, focus instruction to align with state standards. We researched several different systems and ENI's TargetTeach was the best. From the materials to the personnel, everything has been top notch."

By implementing the TargetTeach process, Lafayette Academy uses ENI's curriculum alignment services, formative assessments with web-based scoring and reporting, and instructional materials that fill instructional gaps, address remedial skills, and engage parents. ENI coaching for teachers adds focus implementing the process for success.

The state department of education recently ranked Lafayette Academy as one of the top ten schools in Orleans Parish based on LEAP scores -- a real accomplishment for the school.

About Lafayette Academy Charter School

Lafayette Academy prepares its students for success in a college preparatory high school through an atmosphere that challenges and supports each student to achieve his or her highest potential. Enrollment is open and the school serves as a beacon of light for the students who attend it. Everyone who works at Lafayette commits to being part of a team that will see that all students succeed. For more information visit <http://www.lafayetteacademyno.org>

About Evans Newton Inc.

For over 35 years Evans Newton Incorporated (ENI) has partnered with K12 schools and districts to improve student achievement. Employing a collaborative approach, the partnership designs and implements a customized research-based model for school improvement. TargetTeach® is ENI's proven model for school improvement and student achievement. ENI's trusted and adaptive systemic program is designed to improve school climate and instructional capacity. The combination of the program components with ENI's expertise in implementation, coaching, preparation of teacher coaches, and building professional learning communities, leads to increased measureable student achievement.

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