



For immediate release  
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## **LOCAL PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL RECOGNIZED BY US SECRETARY OF EDUCATION**

***Charter School of Excellence in Ft. Lauderdale is the only Broward County school named a 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School recipient***

**Broward County, FL – Tuesday, September 09, 2008** – Today, Education Secretary Margaret Spellings designated the Charter School of Excellence in Ft. Lauderdale as a **2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School**.

The Charter School of Excellence, along with 320 schools across the country, were honored for helping students achieve at high levels and for making progress in closing the achievement gap. For the past 26 years, this prestigious program has honored more than 5,800 of America's most successful schools.

"We are honored to be a recipient of the Blue Ribbon Award," said Robert Haag, Founding Board Member, Charter School of Excellence. "This recognition is a testament to our dedicated faculty and administrators who have been working diligently for years to raise student achievement and instill a love of learning among our students."

Located at 1217 SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue in Ft. Lauderdale, the Charter School of Excellence is one of the top ten FCAT-rated schools in the state – having earned an "A" grade every year since 2001 and one of the first charter schools to open in Broward County in 1997. It is the only school in Broward County to named a 2008 Blue Ribbon recipient.

Accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement, the Charter School of Excellence was the highest FCAT performing school in Broward County in 2007. In August 2008, the Charter School of Excellence opened a second campus in Davie. Located at 2801 North University Drive, Charter School of Excellence - Davie campus is modeled after the original Charter School of Excellence and serves students in K – 5<sup>th</sup> grades. Both schools share the same mission, philosophy, curriculum, programming and school policies.

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