PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 21, 2009

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INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard joined principals and board members from Indianapolis Mayor-Sponsored Charter Schools today to release the 2007-2008 Accountability Report – a comprehensive document that serves as a key component of the schools’ rigorous and transparent accountability process.

The report, which is designed to provide the public and stakeholders with a comprehensive picture of the schools’ strengths, challenges, and overall achievement, includes data and performance measures for governance, financial reviews, expert site visits, confidential student and staff surveys and test score analysis.

“The release of this report is significant, because it underscores two of the main reasons charter schools overall are delivering academic success -- transparency and accountability,” said Mayor Ballard. “The key for all Mayor-sponsored schools is continuous improvement. Even the best-performing schools have things they need to do better, so while I am pleased with the overall performance, I will always challenge these schools to keep improving.”

Performance measures included in the report indicate that 94 percent of Mayor-sponsored high school graduates enrolled in college. 2007 ISTEP pass rates were up by an average of 5.8 points from 2006. Based on state accountability indicators, three Mayor-Sponsored Charter Schools ranked among the top 10 schools in Marion County in improvement on ISTEP, and among the top 50 schools in the entire state. 87 percent of parents and 89 percent of staff reported overall satisfaction with the schools.

In addition, to measure how much students in Mayor-sponsored schools gain over the course of the year, the schools administer the Northwest Evaluation Association’s (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test every fall and spring. The test results show how much students progress over the year, as well as how their progress compares to other students in Indiana and the U.S. During 2007-08, Mayor-sponsored school students out-gained their state and national peers in reading and language, and made about the same amount of growth in mathematics.

The full report is available online at www.indygov.org.

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