



CONTENT • CHARACTER • COMMUNITY

Imagine Southeast Public Charter School

INTEGRITY • JUSTICE • FUN

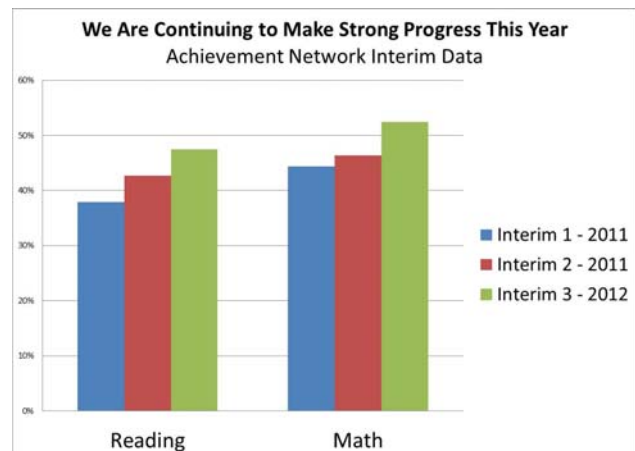
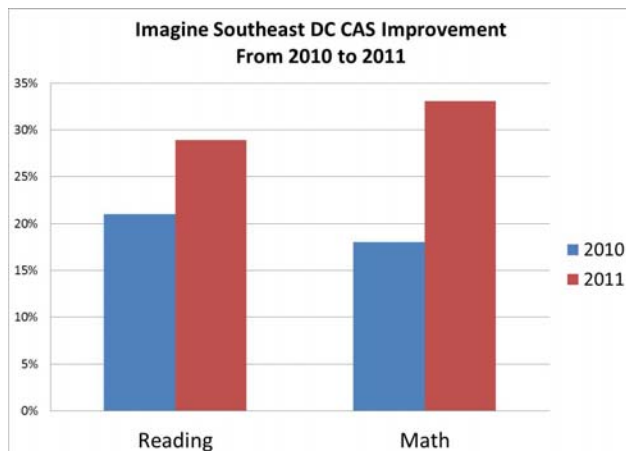
January 26, 2012

Dear Imagine Southeast Parents and Guardians,

Today, several news stories reported on a study commissioned by Mayor Vincent Gray that recommends closing some DC public schools. Unfortunately, the study uses the wrong information to distinguish those schools that are failing and those that are improving students' academic performance. Students at Imagine Southeast have made great progress every year we have been operating. Imagine Southeast is authorized by the DC Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB). The DCPCSB did its own ranking this summer and we were in the middle of three tiers and in good standing. There is no action, communication, or discussion of school closure by the only DC Government organization with the power to do so.

Within the Congress Heights community, numerous traditional public and charter schools, including our campus, were suggested for closure by the mayor's consultant. This designation drastically mischaracterizes our performance. Imagine Southeast is an exceptional school, as indicated by high parent enrollment and satisfaction, as well as strong academic and character gains in our three years of operation. As one of the fastest growing schools in the city, this study also penalizes us for enrolling so many new students each year, which does impact testing averages. We stand by our students' demonstrated academic improvements on the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS), the nationally recognized Stanford-10, and the current year interim assessments.

Imagine Southeast students are on the path to proficiency. As you know, our campus only opened in 2008. Students who were previously falling behind for whatever reason are now catching up. We are strongly committed to providing every student a high quality education and positive character development in a safe environment, and our results demonstrate the progress students are making.



The three-year results of the nationally recognized Stanford 10 test, which is given to every student in grades 1 through 6, show similar growth with students achieving more than a year's growth, which is higher than expected nationally each year.

You know that we measure success based on same student learning gains, which measures how much each student grows academically from the beginning of the school year to the end. Student academic growth is the most fair and just way to evaluate individual student and school-wide academic performance.

We remain open and committed to our educational mission to educate and empower students so that they may experience life-long success. Our governing board and school leaders will be reaching out to Mayor Gray, other elected officials, and the media to correct the false information being circulated about our students' academic achievements.

We take seriously the responsibility that comes with helping you teach and guide your children in their education. We are committed to educating students in Congress Heights, and we ask for your help in fighting these unfair accusations. If you have any questions about what you have heard in recent media reports or if you would like to share publicly your family's success stories, please contact me at 202-561-1622. In addition, we will have the following opportunities for parents to address concerns and questions you may have:

- Friday, January 27th at 8:00am
- Thursday, February 2nd at 3:30pm and 5:30pm

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Scott".

Stacey Scott
Principal