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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**YES PREP PUBLIC SCHOOLS GROWTH PLAN TO IMPACT  
HOUSTON'S FUTURE**

***YES Prep Houston Campus Growth Plan includes accepting 1,000 new students  
and hiring 100 teachers for next school year***

**HOUSTON** (March 24, 2009) – YES Prep Public Schools (<http://www.yesprep.org/>) launched today its [growth plan](#) to grow to 13 schools and 10,000 students in the next five years. The growth begins this summer with the opening of two new schools in the Gulfton area. The five current [YES Prep campuses](#) also will experience growth for the 2009/2010 school year accepting a total of 1,000 new [students](#) and 100 [new teachers](#) across the school system.

“Building on a decade of success, we are launching Phase II of our growth plan. YES Prep will grow to 13 schools in Houston to educate 10,000 students and prepare all of them for college completion,” said Chris Barbic, founder and head of schools, YES Prep Public Schools.

In late 2008, [fundraising](#) efforts began for YES Prep’s Houston campus growth plan with a goal to raise \$34 million. The school has now raised more than half of the funds and is well positioned to accelerate its plans.

“There is tremendous demand in this city for better educational opportunities,” said Barbic. “YES Prep is changing the future of Houston’s youth and preparing them for success as leaders in our city’s future workforce.”

YES Prep currently serves 2,600 low-income, 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students at five Houston-area campuses with more than 4,000 potential students on its waiting list. For eight years 100 percent of YES Prep Public School graduates have been accepted to four-year colleges; 90 percent of those first generation college-bound. In addition, 75 percent of YES graduates have returned to live and work in Houston with college degrees.

“YES Prep is committed to growing without compromising its mission-driven culture and sustained academic results,” said Barbic. “We have high-caliber people at every level of our organization who are

committed to doing whatever it takes to ensure that every student has a better education and opportunity for a better future.”

Houstonians have an opportunity to impact Houston by partnering with YES Prep and supporting its growth needs. YES Prep is actively recruiting leaders to serve in the classroom for the 2009/2010 school year. For more information on YES Prep or to apply to [work at YES Prep](http://www.yesprep.org/), visit <http://www.yesprep.org/>.

### **About YES Prep Public Schools**

*YES Prep Public Schools is a public, open enrollment charter school system serving low-income students across five campuses in the Houston area. YES is consistently ranked as the best public school in Houston by both Newsweek and US News & World Report and is one of the top 100 public schools in the nation. In addition, YES Prep has received recognition by Houston non-profit Children at Risk as No. 1 on a list of the Houston area's best public high schools. For the past eight years, 100 percent of YES Prep's graduating seniors have been accepted into four-year colleges, including Yale, Columbia, Rice and Stanford. YES Prep combines a highly successful 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>-grade model along with high standards for student achievement and parental involvement. For more information on YES Prep Public schools, please visit [www.yesprep.org](http://www.yesprep.org).*

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### **Photo Cutlines:**

IMG 2674 – YES Prep Public Schools unveil its growth plan at the future Gulfton area campus location.

Pictured left to right: Anne McClellan, strategic growth officer; Chris Barbic, founder and head of schools; Rasheed Conrod, 7<sup>th</sup> grade student; Luis Barradas, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student; Jasmine Ramirez, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student; Diamond Harrison, 7<sup>th</sup> grade student; Tarrieck Rideaux, school director; and Bill Durbin, head of new schools.

IMG 2682 – Teachers, students and school directors gather to celebrate YES Prep Public Schools expansion.

Pictured left to right: Luis Barradas, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student; Jasmine Ramirez, 6<sup>th</sup> grade student; Diamond Harrison, 7<sup>th</sup> grade student; Rasheed Conrod, 7<sup>th</sup> grade student; Chris Barbic, founder and head of schools; and Eric Espinoza, YES Prep alumnus and high school Spanish and algebra teacher.