



Contact:
Judith McGarry
jmcgarry@rsed.org
415-971-2900

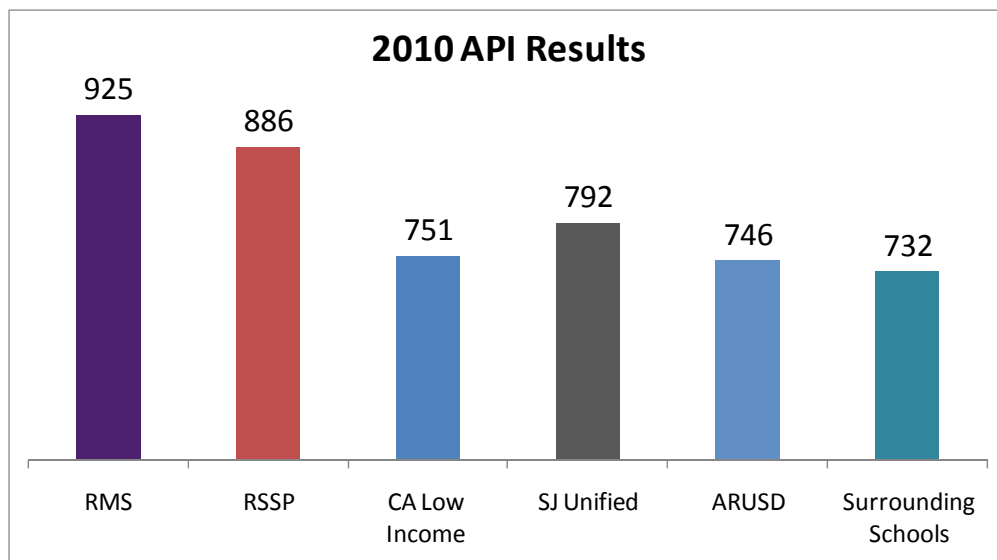
Second Rocketship School Catapults into “Top 15” with Outstanding Student Achievement

Palo Alto, CA, September 13, 2010 -- Rocketship Education today announced 2009-2010 school year STAR results for its schools, Rocketship Mateo Sheedy Elementary and Rocketship Sí Se Puede Academy. Mateo Sheedy Elementary (RMS) earned an API score of 925 for the second year in a row, and Sí Se Puede Academy (RSSP) earned an API score of 886 in its first year of operation.

This places the two Rocketship schools in #5 and #15 positions, respectively, for all California schools with populations of students for whom at least 70% (or more) qualify for free and reduced meals. Sí Se Puede Academy (RSSP) was the top school in this category, for new schools which opened in the fall of 2009.

“Any way that you slice the data, Rocketship students achieved stellar results,” declared Rocketship co-founder and CEO, John Danner. “These strong scores are another powerful proof point that we can eliminate the achievement gap, by providing *all* students – regardless of income – with an excellent education, and put them on firm footing for successful college prep.”

Rocketship schools’ performance is especially stunning, in comparison to overall school district performance, and to neighboring schools. San Jose Unified District schools averaged an API score of 792; Alum Rock Unified schools averaged 746, and neighboring schools averaged 732.





"Rocketship shows you can have outstanding achievement, financial sustainability and high growth at the same time," said Alex Hernandez, partner at Charter School Growth Fund. "Their hybrid school model is pioneering a 'next generation' of school systems capable of solving the nation's enormous achievement gap. We could not be more pleased with the team's execution and the amazing achievements of their students."

"All parents deserve to send their kids to the best public schools, and all kids deserve a shot at a great education," said Davis Guggenheim, Director of the new documentary, *Waiting for Superman*. "Rocketship is vivid proof that we can and should eliminate the achievement gap in just a single generation. Rocketship's commitment, vision and dedication to helping low-income students succeed are amazing. And they're doing it with the same public funding that all public schools receive."

Rocketship Education opened a third school in September, Rocketship Los Sueños Academy, and will open two additional San Jose schools for the 2011-2012 school year.

"Three factors contributed to Rocketship's strong scores," said Preston Smith, Rocketship co-founder and Chief Achievement Officer. "First, we have a talented team of teachers and staff, which is strongly supported by our partnership with Teach for America, who are all committed to our mission of ensuring that each Rocketship school is a college preparatory environment. Second, we collaborate closely with parents and involve them in school governance and hiring, which creates parent-teacher goal alignment and a supportive, achievement-oriented culture for students. Third, our hybrid school model combines innovative use of computers, along with outstanding teaching, which enables us to individualize instruction to meet the specific needs of each and every child."

About Rocketship Education

Founded in 2006, Rocketship Education (www.rsed.org) is building a national network of high-performing urban college preparatory elementary charter schools, based on a transformative education model – the hybrid school platform – that combines traditional classroom teaching with individualized instruction using tutors and technology to meet the specific needs of each and every student. The Rocketship hybrid school model enables teachers to maximize classroom time for instruction, guided practice and extending critical thinking skills, while allowing them to schedule tutors and technology for core skills acquisition, independent practice, assessment and remediation/acceleration. The hybrid school model also creates significant cost savings, which are reinvested in programs and people to drive school quality and enable Rocketship schools to operate solely on traditional public school funding and without the need for philanthropy.