Research, Evaluation and Accountability

Memo

To: Amy Dawson & Barbara Pierce, Partners

From: John Loehr, Amy Newell, and Dan Ragin

Date: 08/30/06

Re: Dodge and Williams Summary

After analyzing Dodge and Williams results before and after their year of closing, several facts are clear. The new schools have higher overall achievement levels than the schools they replaced. They have strong gains in reading and math, though not uniformly, and in most cases the current level of student gains is higher than the levels seen in the old schools. Moreover, students who attended the old schools and enrolled in the new schools have year over year improvements in ITBS reading that are significantly higher than the improvement rates they had at the old schools. Attendance is higher at the new schools, while mobility is down. All these positive results were achieved while the demographic composition of the students in terms of race and poverty remained largely unchanged. Key findings are listed below:

At both Dodge and Williams, there are higher scores on both ISAT and ITBS Reading in 2005 compared to 2002.

In 2002 Dodge had 33% of students meeting or exceeding standards in Reading on the ISAT (see table 1). By 2005 using preliminary ISAT data, Dodge has 39% of students meeting or exceeding standards. And on the ITBS Reading test, in 2002 Dodge had 54% of students at or above national norms and 41% in the bottom quartile (see table 2). By 2005 Dodge had 42% at or above national norms and only 21% in the bottom quartile.

At Williams, in 2002 only 6% of 3rd graders, 11% of 5th graders and 40% of 8th graders were meeting or exceeding state standards on the ISAT Reading test. By 2005, at Williams Multiplex 47% of 3rd graders were meeting or exceeding standards in reading. In 5th grade in 2005, 25% of KIPP students and 64% of Williams Middle School students were meeting or exceeding standards. And in 8th grade in 2005, 78% of Williams Middle School students were meeting or exceeding state standards in reading.

And on the ITBS Reading test, in 2002 only 16% of students at the old Williams were at or above national norms, and 50% were in the bottom quartile. In 2005, across the three schools at Williams the percent of students at or above national norms ranged from a high of 52% for Williams Middle to 37% for Williams Multiplex with the low being 29% at KIPP. The percent of students at in the bottom quartile was 17% for Williams Middle, 23% for Williams Multiplex, and 30% for KIPP.

At Williams, there are higher scores on both ISAT and ITBS Math in 2005 compared to 2002.

At the old Williams in 2002, 31% of 3rd graders, 8% of 5th graders and 19% of 8th graders were meeting or exceeding state standards on the ISAT Math test. By 2005, at Williams Multiplex 73% of 3rd graders were meeting or exceeding standards in math. In 5th grade in 2005, 53% of KIPP students and 68% of Williams Middle School students were meeting or exceeding standards. And in 8th grade in 2005, 33% of Williams Middle School students were meeting or exceeding state standards in math. At Dodge, the percent of students meeting or exceeding state standards in math declined from 28% in 2002 to 22% in 2005.

And in the ITBS Math in 2002 only 20% of students at the old Williams School were at or above national norms, and 52% were in the bottom quartile. In 2005, across the three schools at Williams, 40% of students at Williams Multiplex, 36% at Williams Middle, and 32% at KIPP are at or above national norms. While the percent of students in the bottom quartile ranges from 27% at Williams Multiplex, to 20% at Williams Middle, to 23% at KIPP.

There are strong gains in ITBS Reading and Math in 2005.

Average reading gains that measure individual students year over year improvement in 2004 at Dodge are 1.32, at Williams Middle School they are 1.01, at Williams Multiplex they are 0.96, and at KIPP they are 0.71. In 2002 the average reading gains at Dodge were 1.08, and at the old Williams they were 0.67.

In 2004 the average Math gains at Dodge were 1.26, and at the old Williams they were .85. Average Math gains in 2005 at Williams Middle School are 1.47, at Williams Multiplex they are 1.14, and at KIPP they are 1.10. Math Gains at Dodge in 2005 were .81 versus 1.25 in 2002.

For students who both attended the old Dodge and the new Dodge, and for students attending the old Williams and either Williams Middle School, Williams Multiplex, or KIPP, average reading gains are higher in 2004 and 2005 than in 2002.

For students who were enrolled at Dodge or Williams in 2002 and chose to return to that school or one of the alternatives in 2004, ITBS reading gains were larger at their new schools than at the old Dodge and Williams (see table 3). Among these students the average gains at the old Dodge in 2002 were 0.74 (22 students) and at the old Williams in 2002 they were 0.18 (34 students). In 2004 gains at Dodge for 25 students who had attended the old Dodge were 1.64. The gains for the 12 students who were enrolled in Dodge in 2003 and still were there in 2004 were 1.10. In 2004 the gains for students who attended the old Williams and were now attending either Williams Middle or KIPP were 1.04. In 2005, the 30 students from the old Williams still enrolled at Williams Middle or KIPP posted a mean gain of 1.18. Please note that for Williams Multiplex, gain scores in 2005 are for fourth graders and prior ITBS scores do not exist for these students to compare to the old Williams.

There has been little if any change in the racial composition or poverty levels in these schools. However, there has been improvement in attendance and mobility rates. At Dodge School there has been an increase in total enrollment since 2002.

See Table 4 for Demographic profiles of Dodge, Williams Middle School, Williams Multiplex, and KIPP.