



Highline Academy Charter Schools  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Highline Academy Receives The National Blue Ribbon Schools Award

**{Denver, CO, September 24, 2020}**: Highline Academy Charter Schools' Southeast campus has been awarded [The National Blue Ribbon Award](#) for 2020. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program recognizes public and private elementary, middle, and high schools based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. Highline Academy Southeast is one of only 4 schools in the state to receive the prestigious award, and one of only 15 charter schools in the country. To be selected for the award, schools had to rank in the top 15% for school subgroup improvement in reading, English language arts and math.

Highline Academy Southeast Principal Sarah Verni-Lau stated, "This award is a testament to the talent of our staff and the efforts of our students, we are so proud of the whole Highline Community!"

From the inception of the DPS Student Performance Framework (SPF) in 2008, Highline Academy Southeast has been rated blue or green, meeting or exceeding expectations on the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). When CMAS scores were released in September 2019, the campus celebrated impressive results. Those scores placed Highline among the 6 highest performing schools for reading and the 7 highest performing for math. Highline is in the top 10 for growth among all DPS schools. CMAS testing was halted for 2020 due to COVID-19. However, based on results from internal school testing, students at Highline Southeast undoubtedly would have done extremely well. Highline's Southeast campus also received the [Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award](#) in 2019 for academic excellence.

Highline Academy remains at the forefront of innovation in education, meeting students where they are so they may thrive. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Highline saw the need to launch a Virtual Charter Academy to support students who cannot attend in-person learning once it resumes. The program will also be available for students from other local charter schools that are unable to provide a separate remote learning program for their students during in-person learning. The Virtual Charter Academy will be staffed by Highline teachers and overseen by Highline Southeast principal Sarah Verni-Lau. The program will provide the high quality, standards-based instruction Highline Academy is known for, via remote instruction. Highline will provide academic instruction in English Language Arts,

Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Development (where needed) in the Virtual Charter Academy. “Education looks different this year, but regardless of learning environment our goal is to provide a high quality education to all of our students. Virtual Academy allows us to ensure that our students who need to stay at home have access to the same educational experience as their peers who are participating in in-person learning.” explained principal Verni-Lau.

The Southeast campus for Highline Academy Charter Schools serves 525 students from Kindergarten to 8th grade. It is home to a diverse population of students from all across the Denver-metro area, with 26 different languages spoken in the home and representing 50 countries from all over the world. Highline provides Spanish instruction starting in Kindergarten and develops the whole child with music, art, PE, character development and social emotional curriculum. Students are challenged with rigorous academics at all levels of ability and are inspired to REACH new heights in and outside of the classroom. The campus was founded on and is anchored in its REACH values: Responsibility, Empowerment, Aspiration, Citizenship, and Honesty. These values are the core of its program in helping students achieve academic, civic, and personal excellence.

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