



Briya

Public Charter School

Education Strengthens Families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISTRICT CHARTER SCHOOL FOR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCES NEW NAME

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Washington, DC-- Education Strengthens Families (ESF) Public Charter School, the only District charter school which counts both children and their parents among its students, announced a new name on Thursday, April 18th at the school's Georgia Avenue site which is co-located with Mary's Center.

Briya Public Charter School is the new name for the school, which provides English, computer skills, parenting and civics training to parents while preparing their children ages 0-5 for future school success.

"The name is the result of many months of talking to our students, consulting and testing. We think the name will be easy for young children to pronounce and that it will help increase pride in the school," said Christie McKay, Executive Director of Briya.

The school has been serving families through a multi-cultural family literacy approach since 1989. It became a public charter school in 2006 and is the only charter school built on a family engagement model. More than 400 students benefit from the curriculum. Briya is a school of excellence that has consistently met its accountability goals as a public charter school. The school's adult education outcomes exceed the national average.

Briya aims to boost the academic achievements of parents while immersing their children in an enriching environment. Research has shown that parental engagement is an important predictor of children's educational attainment. A hallmark of the school is the hands-on parenting component, which gives parents the opportunity to put their learning into practice with their children through specific classroom activities focusing on literacy and language development.

Briya also shared its new web site (briya.org) and strategic priorities for the next six years. Maria Gomez, President and CEO of Mary's Center, who was recently awarded the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal, was on hand to address the gathering. Other speakers included Dr. Darren Woodruff, Vice Chairman of the Public Charter School Board; Anabel Cruz, a student at the school for six years who shared the impact of Briya on her and her children; Daniela Carroza, the Chair of the Briya Board of Trustees, and Christie McKay, Executive Director of Briya.

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