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**STEPPINGSTONE EXPANDS PROGRAMS FOR 6TH GRADERS AND
ADDS SITE IN EAST BOSTON TO SERVE MORE STUDENTS
Non-Profit Increases Efforts to Send Scholars on to College While Easing Burden
on Families**

BOSTON, October 25, 2009 – The Steppingstone Foundation today announced the expansion of their program offerings to Boston sixth graders. Previously The Steppingstone Academy, a rigorous academic program aimed at increasing college access for Boston Public School students, accepted only fourth, fifth and seventh graders. Additionally, Steppingstone is adding a second after-school site in East Boston to improve the ability of students in that and surrounding neighborhoods such as Charlestown to attend Steppingstone classes during their weekday sessions.

For the first time, starting this fall sixth grade students can apply to Steppingstone to increase their opportunities to attend Boston’s public exam schools as well as some of the area’s most competitive independent day and boarding schools.

Beginning with this year’s admitted class of sixth graders; Steppingstone Scholars will attend the program over three summers and two academic years, applying to schools for ninth grade placement. By extending the program from 14-months to this new elongated schedule, the students can more fully prepare for the entrance exams and success at these selective high schools

“Several peer programs across the country use this extended model and have found great success with being able to invest more time in each student,” said Yully Cha, Steppingstone’s Vice President of Programs. “Also, by adding an after-school site in East Boston, we are responding to the difficulty families from this area have often found in getting to our existing site at Boston Latin Academy.”

ABOUT THE STEPPINGSTONE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1990, The Steppingstone Foundation is a nonprofit organization that develops and implements programs that prepare urban schoolchildren for educational opportunities that lead to college. In 2009, Steppingstone will serve 950 students in grades five through 12. For additional information, please visit the Steppingstone website at www.tsf.org.

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