2014-2015 MEDIA RELEASE FOR FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE MEALS IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND SCHOOL BREAKFAST PROGRAMS	On July 28, 2014, this public release was/will be sent to: Los Angeles Times, L.A. Daily News

City Charter Schools Participates In the National School Lunch for the 2014-2015 School Year (July 28, 2014)

Apply for Free or Reduced-Price Meals Based on Income

LOS ANGELES (July 28, 2012) – City Charter Schools announced today its participation in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program, which serves meals to students every day. A copy of the policy is available at our central office (11625 W. Pico Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064), and may be reviewed by any interested party.

The household size and income criteria are used to determine a student's eligibility for free, reduced-price or full-price meal benefits. Children from households with incomes at or below eligible levels may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. Children who receive Food Stamps, California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs), Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payments (KinGAP) or Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) benefits are automatically eligible for free meals, regardless of the income of the household in which they reside. Eligibility for a foster child is based on a separate application and solely on the child's income.

To see a table of income eligibility guidelines for the 2014-2015 school year go to: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/nu/rs/scales1415.asp.

Meal applications are mailed to households, and are also available at the main office at the school. To apply for free or reduced-price meals, households must complete a "2014-2015 Application for Meal Benefits" and have it processed by City Charter Schools. Meal applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information households provide on the application will be used to determine meal eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or program officials.

Requirements for school officials to determine eligibility for free and reduced-price benefits are as follows: for households receiving Food Stamps, CalWORKs, KinGAP, or FDPIR benefits – applications need only include the enrolled child(ren)'s name, Food Stamps, CalWORKs, KinGAP, or FDPIR case number and the signature of an adult household member. For households that do not list Food Stamps, CalWORKs, KinGAP or FDPIR case number, the application must include the names of all household members, the amount and source of the income received by each household member and the signature and corresponding social security number of an adult household member. If the household member who signs the application does not have a social security number, the household member must indicate that a social security number is not available.

Under the provisions of the free and reduced-price meal policy, the determining official(s), as designated by City Charter Schools, shall review applications and determine eligibility. Parents or guardians dissatisfied with the eligibility ruling may discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If still dissatisfied, parents or guardians may also make a formal request for an appeal hearing of the decision and may do so orally by calling (310) 273-2489 or in writing to:

City Charter Schools
Attn: Valerie Braimah, Executive Director
11625 W. Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size increases, the household should contact City Charter Schools. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for benefits if the household's income falls at or below the levels of the "Income Eligibility Guidelines" listed above.

Children whose households are currently certified to receive Food Stamps or CalWORKs benefits or are Foster Children may not have to complete an application for meal benefits. School officials will determine eligibility for free meals based on documentation obtained from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). City Charter Schools will notify households of their eligibility, but those who do not want their child(ren) to receive free meals must contact the school. Food Stamps, CalWORKs, KinGAP, FDPIR and households with foster children should complete a meal application if they have not been notified of their eligibility by September 30, 2014.

For more information, contact: (310) 273-2489 or foodservice@citycharterschools.org.