

Accountability Plan Progress Reports for the 2008-09 School Year

Reader's Guide

SUNY Authorized Charter Schools

As set forth in the *Practices, Policies and Procedures for the Renewal of Charter Schools Authorized by the State University Board of Trustees*, the single most important factor that the Charter Schools Institute and the State University Board of Trustees consider in making renewal determinations is the school's record in generating successful student achievement outcomes. In order to determine whether a school has met that high standard, **each charter school that the State University Board of Trustees authorizes is required to enter into an accountability agreement, known as an Accountability Plan**, which ultimately becomes part of its charter.

The Charter Schools Institute closely monitors each school's progress toward achieving the goals outlined in its Accountability Plan.

In addition, as part of its annual reporting requirements, **each SUNY authorized charter school must submit an Accountability Plan Progress Report which, from its vantage point, addresses each of the goals and outcome measures contained in its Accountability Plan.** The information presented in these Progress Reports constitutes important evidence that a school is keeping its promises to its students, parents and community, and is critical to making its case for renewal at the end of its charter period. The most important parts of Progress Reports are student achievement results on state exams and other assessments. However, not all schools will have tested grade levels for a particular state exam. Each year, the state administers English language arts and mathematics tests to 3rd through 8th grade, science tests to the 4th and 8th grades, and, up through 2009-10, social studies tests to the 5th and 8th grades.

Important Note: **The Accountability Plan Progress Report is authored by the charter school.** In reporting school progress toward meeting the outcome measures set forth in the Accountability Plan, schools are encouraged to build a case for the effectiveness of their program, and to lay the groundwork for writing a Renewal Application and ultimately for charter renewal. **The school's evaluation of its own progress does not necessarily reflect the conclusions of the Institute.** Further, the Institute does not affirm the completeness or accuracy of the report's data and may not endorse the school's characterization of the progress it has made toward achieving its Accountability Plan goals. Throughout the life of the school's charter, the Institute will visit each school, generating Institute School Visit Reports, and at the end of each charter period, a Renewal Report (select the <back> button in your browser to return to the school profile to see any/all available reports). These reports include detailed summaries of the Institute's observations of the school, as well as its evaluation of student performance and progress toward meeting the academic subject goals in its Accountability Plan.



**ARK COMMUNITY
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**2008-09
ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

Submitted to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on:

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Mary Theresa Streck prepared this 2008-09 Accountability Progress Report on behalf of the school's Board of Trustees:

Trustee's Name	Board Position
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Mary Theresa Streck	Director/Principal

INTRODUCTION

The Ark Community Charter School (ACCS) is located in Troy, New York and serves students in Kindergarten through 6th grade. The school's enrollment lottery is open to all students with preference given to children from families who qualify for free or reduced lunch. ACCS is based on the belief that quality education and quality human interactions are ethical issues. The staff provides a hospitable environment within the school where mutual respect, co-responsibility and dialogue are the norm. ACCS provides a creative and challenging community of learning in which innovation, skilled inquiry, and teamwork are encouraged. The school is a shared enterprise among students, parents and guardians, ACCS staff and the Board of Trustees. ACCS operates in a spirit of openness and honesty, and in the practice of full disclosure.

ACCS Mission Statement

The Ark Community Charter School's continuing mission is to create within the city of Troy a community that fosters the academic, social and spiritual growth of our members in an environment that is both supportive and challenging. In this community everyone is celebrated, respected, and heard; all are intellectually engaged, socially concerned, ethically responsible, and culturally open-minded. The ACCS mission is achieved through the following key design elements:

Key Design Elements

- *Strong Academic Support- Low Teacher/Student Ratio*
Academic success for all students is the vision of all stakeholders at ACCS - the board, leadership team, faculty, students and parents. All other Key Design Elements support this vision. Strong academic support is evident in the board's monthly meetings, in the weekly meetings of the leadership team and faculty, in the low teacher/student ratio and in the ongoing communications between staff and parents.
- *Longer School Day – Enrichment Programs*
ACCS provides 50 additional minutes to the school day compared to the local school district. This additional time allows for increased instructional time and provides the flexibility to integrate high quality art, music and movement programs into our curriculum. ACCS offers space and support for after-school and summer programs that provide additional academic support and enrichment.
- *Small School*
ACCS is an intentionally small school community with a student population capped at 200 students. The small school size creates a more personalized and successful learning environment.
- *Safe Environment – Responsive Classroom Training*
ACCS creates a school culture that fosters an academic learning environment. In this culture students' thoughts and feelings are respected and students work collaboratively with classmates and other members of the community. ACCS staff are trained in the principles of Responsive Classroom.

- Families as Partners*
 ACCS families are respected collaborators in the educational process. Staff listens carefully to parents and requires their active partnership in implementing an effective educational plan for their children. The school has an open-door policy for parents/guardians, who have formal representation on the ACCS Board of Trustees.

Demographics

During 2008-09, a total of 192 students were enrolled sometime during the school year with an average daily enrollment of 186 students.

School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
2004-05	36	18	18	18	18	18	0	126
2005-06	40	40	21	18	20	20	0	159
2006-07	44	42	32	23	21	22	17	201
2007-08	45	42	35	25	21	17	15	200
2008-09	43	38	34	26	20	20	11	192

The following demographics represent our student population:

- 95 percent of the student body is ethnically non-white,
- 30 percent are of Hispanic origin,
- 92 percent are eligible for free or reduced lunch,
- 10 percent have an identified disability,
- 10 percent have received English language services,
- 22 percent have a history of retention, and
- 42 percent have received academic intervention services during the year.

At the conclusion of 2008-09 school year, ACCS moves from a one year charter renewal to a five year charter renewal beginning with the 2009-10 school year. In this report, ACCS satisfies all accountability measures set forth by the SUNY Trustees.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

Students will read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding, for literacy response and expression, for critical analysis and evaluation, and for social interaction.

Background

ACCS uses the Pearson Scott Foresman Reading Street Program (Reading Street) which is aligned with the NYS Learning Standards, provides direct, systematic instruction across the grades in the five essential elements of reading, and meets the criteria for Scientifically Based Reading Research (SBRR). All classrooms use a literacy block, and the instruction within that time is consistent in pacing and is organized in ways that effectively promote high literacy gains in low performing students. Reading Street offers structure and guidance for the reading block and strong support for students reading on multiple reading levels. For ELA Academic Intervention Services (AIS) in grades 1-6, ACCS staff use Sidewalks, a supplemental, intervention program that is directly integrated with the core Reading Street program. The "Interactive Strategies Approach" is used for kindergarten. This program incorporates sight word practice, reading, writing, letter-sound practice, blending, letter-identification, etc.

Pearson Scott Foresman Reading Street – Three Tier Program

Tier I is the core classroom instruction for all children. It consists of a core reading program and benchmark testing at least five times a year to determine children's instructional needs. A validated baseline group test helps teachers determine how students should be grouped for instruction. Ongoing progress monitoring tracks student learning and enables teachers to differentiate instruction. Results of day 5 assessments and unit benchmark tests help teachers make regrouping decisions at the end of each subsequent unit.

Tier II is supplemental small-group instruction for strategic intervention in addition to the regular instruction in the core reading program. It is designed to prevent struggling readers from falling behind. Daily strategic intervention instruction is provided in the differentiated instruction section of the teacher's editions in Pearson Scott Foresman Reading Street. It supports and enhances core classroom instruction by providing re-teaching of core concepts, additional teacher modeling and feedback, additional scaffolding, multiple opportunities for practice, and more time on task for Tier II students.

Frequent progress monitoring ensures adequate progress and learning. Progress monitoring of priority skills happens daily and weekly in the core program. In grades 1 and 2 assessment is also differentiated; they are tested on the same skills as on-level children, but using simpler text. Progress for fluency and retelling is monitored more frequently for children in Tier II (every two weeks) than for on-level or advanced students (once per unit). Children exit Tier II when they reach on-level benchmarks for priority skills. Reading Street also provides significant support for the development of oral vocabulary (Amazing Words) and building of concepts. Research indicates this kind of built-in intervention provides a significant instructional advantage for children in this tier.

Tier III instruction for Reading Street consists of an intensive intervention program, Sidewalks, that is parallel to the core program in concepts and vocabulary, but more slowly paced in skill instruction. Student readers contain four selections per week, or about 16 to 20 pages of text. Children in Tier III require more instructional time than students in Tiers I and II. The instruction in the Sidewalks program is used in addition to a regular classroom reading program. It is possible that some children may be in the core program, receiving strategic intervention in the classroom, and receiving intensive intervention as a pull-out program.

A comprehensive list of ELA assessments is included in the ELA Action Plan. There were no significant changes to the ELA curriculum in the 2008-09 school year.

Writing

In addition to the Scott Foresman embedded writing program, ACCS uses the Houghton Mifflin Write Source writing program. The Write Source program reflects the latest and best research on writing and learning and provides everything students need to become better writers, thinkers, and learners. The program covers the writing process and the six traits of writing to help students become focused writers and readers. It integrates mechanics, usage, and grammar throughout every unit. Strategies for developing skills including listening, making oral presentations, and note taking are also emphasized. All classrooms engage in two writing workshop blocks each week beyond the writing that happens in all the content areas. For writing Academic Intervention Services (AIS) in grades 1-6, ACCS staff uses the “Struggling Learners” component of the writing program found embedded in each chapter. The kindergarten uses the writing component of the Scott-Foresman program.

Ongoing assessment and diagnosis are coupled with strategic intervention to meet the individual needs of students, including frequent and timely student assessments integrated throughout the program to demonstrate student understanding and guide and monitor instruction. Writing samples from across the curriculum are assessed using the NYS, Scott Foresman, and teacher created rubrics.

The staff employs a common language and knowledge that supports strategies that promote scientifically based reading instruction and participates in ongoing professional development provided by the ACCS Curriculum Coordinators and professional conferences. As a result of this ongoing support, ACCS staff possesses the special knowledge and training needed to effectively teach students to read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding, for literary response and expression, for critical analysis and evaluation, and for social interaction.

Goal 1: Absolute Measure

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State English language arts examination.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program English language arts assessment to students in grades 3 through 6 in January 2009. Each student’s raw score has been converted to a grade-specific scaled score and a performance level. The criterion for success on this measure requires students who have been enrolled in at least their second year (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year) to score at Levels 3 or 4.

The table below summarizes participation information for this year’s test administration. The table indicates total enrollment and total number of students tested. It also provides a detailed breakdown of those students excluded from the exam. Note that this table includes all students according to grade level, even if they have been enrolled for less than one year.

**2008-09 State English Language Arts Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ¹			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	25				25
4	19				19
5	20				20
6	11				11
All	75	0	0	0	75

Results

The following table presents the state English language arts test results for all students and for those students enrolled in at least their second year in 3rd through 6th grade. In 2008-09, 80 percent of tested students who were enrolled in at least their second year scored at or above Level 3 (proficient).

¹ Students exempted from this exam according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP), because of English Language Learners (ELL) status, or absence for at least some part of the exam.

**Charter School Performance on 2008-09 State English Language Arts Exam
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grade	Population	Percent at Each Performance Level					Number Tested
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3/4	
3	All Students		16%	80%	4%	84%	25
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		16%	80%	4%	84%	25
4	All Students	5%	32%	63%		63%	19
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year	6%	33%	61%		61%	18
5	All Students		20%	80%		80%	20
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		12%	88%		88%	17
6	All Students		9%	91%		91%	11
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		10%	90%		90%	10
All	All Students	1%	20%	77%	1%	78%	75
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year	1%	19%	79%	1%	80%	70

Evaluation

ACCS achieved this goal. Schoolwide, with 80 percent of students scoring at Level 3 or above, the school exceeded the measure by five percentage points. Grades 3, 5 and 6 each exceeded the 75 percent target by comfortable margins (84 percent, 88 percent and 90 percent proficient). Grade 4 was the only grade that did not meet the measure, with only 61 percent proficient. Of the six students who scored below a Level 3, three had scale scores very close to proficiency and the two students with the lowest scale scores are students with disabilities who receive intensive specialized services. Based on an item analysis of this grade's test results, the following skills will be reinforced during whole group and small group instruction: draw conclusions, theme, and essay writing. All but one of the six students are receiving academic intervention services which, going forward, will target those two areas for improvement.

Additional Evidence

The table below shows the school's English language arts performance trends over the past four years. The school has shown dramatic and systematic growth, with only 20 percent proficient in 2005-06 and effectively doubling each subsequent year's proficiency rate to this year when the school surpassed the goal of 75 percent proficiency. We believe this achievement is a clear sign that the substantive changes we made in the fall of 2006 to our English language arts program were successful.

English Language Arts Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year at Levels 3 and 4									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3			14%	7	54%	13	67%	18	84%	25
4	50%	12	33%	9	15%	13	81%	16	61%	18
5			11%	9	38%	13	58%	12	88%	17
6					63%	16	39%	13	90%	10
All	50%	12	20%	25	44%	55	63%	59	80%	70

Goal 1: Absolute Measure

Each year, the school’s aggregate Performance Index (PI) on the State English language arts exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state’s NCLB accountability system.

Method

The federal No Child Left Behind law holds schools accountable for making annual yearly progress towards all students being proficient by the year 2013-14. As a result, the state sets an Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) each year to determine if schools are making satisfactory progress toward the goal that 100 percent of students will ultimately be proficient in the state’s learning standards in English Language Arts. To achieve this measure, all tested students must have a Performance Index (PI) value that equals or exceeds this year’s English language arts AMO, which for 2008-09 is 144. The PI is calculated by adding the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 2 through 4 with the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 3 and 4. Thus, the highest possible PI is 200.

Results

The table below presents the calculation of the school’s Performance Index (PI) for English language arts for the current year. The PI value for 2008-09 is 176.

Calculation of 2008-09 English Language Arts Performance Index (PI)

Grades	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level				Number Tested
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
3-6	1%	20%	77%	1%	75

$$\begin{array}{rclclclclcl}
 \text{PI} & = & 20 & + & 77 & + & 1 & = & 98 \\
 & & & + & 77 & + & 1 & = & 78 \\
 & & & & & & \text{PI} & = & \mathbf{176}
 \end{array}$$

Evaluation

ACCS has met this measure. The school’s Performance Index (PI) value of 176 exceeded the current Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) of 144.

Additional Evidence

The table below shows the school's progress over the past five years towards reaching the NCLB goal that all students will be proficient in English Language Arts by the year 2013-14. This is the third consecutive year our Performance Index has exceeded the state's AMO as the percent of students at Levels 1 and 2 has steadily decreased. We are well on our way to reaching the NCLB goal of 100% proficiency within the next five years.

**English Language Arts Performance Index (PI) and
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) by School Year**

Year	Grades ²	Number Tested	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level				PI	AMO
			Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4		
2004-05	4	17	18%	47%	35%	0%	118	109
2005-06	3-5	56	21%	48%	29%	2%	111	122
2006-07	3-6	76	13%	47%	38%	1%	126	122
2007-08	3-6	72	0%	40%	56%	4%	160	133
2008-09	3-6	75	1%	20%	77%	1%	177	144

² Beginning in 2005-06 the state administered tests in grades 3-8 and a single AMO was set for the aggregate PI of all tested students in those grades.

Goal 1: Comparative Measure

Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the state English language arts exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

Method

Tested students who were enrolled in at least their second year are compared to all tested students in the surrounding public school district. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students and the results for the respective grades in the local school district, as well as between the total result of students in at least their second year at the school and the total result for all students at the corresponding grades in the school district

Results

The table below compares the performance of ACCS to the Troy School District on the 2008-09 English language arts exam. School wide, ACCS outperformed the Troy City School District in grades 3-6, with 80 percent proficiency compared to only 64 percent proficiency for the aggregate of those grades in Troy.

**2008-09 State English Language Arts Exam
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level**

Grade	Percent of Students at Levels 3 and 4			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		Troy School District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	84%	25	53%	309
4	61%	18	59%	292
5	88%	17	72%	271
6	90%	10	74%	280
All	80%	70	64%	1152

Evaluation

ACCS met this measure. We exceeded the aggregate district performance of Troy by 16 percentage points and exceeded Troy’s performance at all grade levels.

Additional Evidence

The table below compares the English language arts performance of ACCS with Troy over the last five years. After several years of performing below the district aggregated results, ACCS has steadily and substantially improved, now outperforming the district as a whole for the second consecutive year. Where Troy outperformed ACCS by 33 percentage points in 2005-06, we narrowed the gap to an eight percentage point lag in 2006-07 and reversed the trend in 2007-08 by outperforming the district by five percentage points in 2007-08 and 16 percentage points in 2008-09.

**English Language Performance of Charter School and Local District
by Grade Level and School Year**

Grade	Percent of Charter School Students Enrolled in At Least Second Year and All District Students at Levels 3 and 4									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Charter School	Troy District	Charter School	Troy District	Charter School	Troy District	Charter School	Troy District	Charter School	Troy District
3			14%	51%	54%	54%	67%	55%	84%	53%
4	50%	54%	33%	57%	15%	48%	81%	53%	61%	59%
5			11%	52%	38%	56%	58%	64%	88%	72%
6					63%	48%	39%	61%	90%	74%
All			20%	53%	44%	52%	63%	58%	80%	64%

Goal 1: Comparative Measure

Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state English language arts exam by at least a small Effect Size (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for free lunch among all public schools in New York State.

Method

The Charter Schools Institute conducts a Comparative Performance Analysis, which compares the school’s performance to demographically similar public schools state-wide. Regression analysis is used to control for the percentage of students eligible for free lunch among all public schools in New York State. The school’s actual performance is then compared to the predicted performance of public schools with a similar free lunch percentage. The difference between the school’s actual and predicted performance, relative to other schools with similar free lunch statistics, produces an Effect Size. An Effect Size of 0.3 is considered performing higher than expected to a small degree, which is the requirement for achieving this measure. Given the timing of the state’s release of poverty data, the 2008-09 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2007-08 results, the most recent ones available.

Results

The table below presents the performance of the school on the English language arts test compared to predictions of public schools with a similar free lunch percentage. The school’s overall comparative performance is “higher than expected to a small degree” for 2007-08. We anticipate our 2008-09 results to be even higher.

2007-08 English Language Arts Comparative Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Free Lunch Eligible Students	Number of Students Tested	Percent of Students at Levels 3&4		Difference between Actual and Predicted	Effect Size	
			Actual	Predicted			
3	83.33	22	59.00	52.57	6.43	0.47	
4		21	76.20	53.65	22.55	1.50	
5		15	60.00	62.83	-2.83	-0.19	
6		14	35.70	43.99	-8.29	-0.50	
7							
8							
All			72	59.69	53.36	6.34	0.44
School’s Overall Comparative Performance:							
Higher than expected to a small degree							

Evaluation

ACCS met this measure in 2007-08. The school’s aggregate Effect Size exceeded the 0.3 level. We anticipate the school’s overall comparative performance for 2008-09 to be at least that high.

Goal 1: Growth Measure

Each year, each grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year’s state English language arts exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year’s state English language arts exam. If a grade-level cohort exceeds 75 percent at or above Level 3 in the previous year, that cohort is expected to show at least an increase in the current year.

Method

This measure examines the change in performance of the same group of students from one year to the next and the progress they are making towards the absolute measure of 75 percent proficient. Each grade level cohort consists of those students who took the state exam in 2007-08 and also have a state exam score in 2006-07. It includes students who repeated the grade. The criterion for achieving this measure is for each grade-level cohort to halve the difference between the percentage of students proficient in 2006-07 and 75 percent proficient in 2007-08. If a cohort had already achieved 75 percent proficient in 2006-07, it is expected to show some positive growth in the subsequent year. In addition, the aggregate of all cohorts is examined to determine the growth of all students who took a state exam in both years.

Results

The table below shows growth for each current grade level cohort. Two of the three cohorts - grades 5 and 6 - achieved their growth targets. The 4th grade did not.

Cohort Growth on State English Language Arts Exam from 2007-08 to 2008-09

Grade in 2008-09	Cohort Size	Percent at Levels 3 and 4			Target Achieved
		2007-08	Target	2008-09	
4	17	59%	67%	65%	NO/YES*
5	17	82%	gain	88%	YES
6	10	50%	63%	90%	YES
All	44	65%	70%	79%	YES

*Since a single student in this cohort represents about six percent of the group, a two percentage point gap from the target seems insignificant.

Evaluation

We met this outcome measure. Students taking the ELA exam for two consecutive years showed significant growth, exceeding the 70 percent proficiency target by nine percentage points for a school wide cohort passing rate of 79 percent. The 6th grade cohort showed the most significant growth, almost doubling their previous year’s performance with a 40 percentage point gain and surpassing the growth target by 27 percentage points. While showing progress, the 4th grade was the only cohort that did not meet the absolute growth target: only 65 percent were proficient, two percentage points shy of the 67 percent target.

Additional Evidence

The table below summarizes the English language arts cohort performance over the past three years. In 2006-07, only one (Grade 6) of the three cohorts met the target. Last year, two cohorts (Grades 4 and 5) met the target. This year, Grades 5 and 6 both met their growth targets and the 4th grade was only two percentage points shy of the target

Cohort Performance on State English Language Arts Exam Since the Advent of the Grades 3-8 Testing Program by School Year

School Year	Cohort Grades	Number of Cohorts Meeting Target	Number of Cohorts
2006-07	4-6	1	3
2007-08	4-6	2	3
2008-09	4-6	2-3*	3

*Since a single student in this cohort represents about six percent of the group, a two percentage point gap from the target seems insignificant.

Summary of the English Language Arts Goal

The Ark Community Charter School has met all five accountability measures of the English language arts goal for 2008-09.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State examination.	Achieved
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Index (PI) on the State exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the State exam by at least a small Effect Size.	Achieved
Growth	Each year, each grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year's State exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year's State exam.	Achieved

Action Plan

The fourth grade did not reach the target goal of 75 percent proficiency. Based on an item analysis of this grade's test results, the following skills will be reinforced during whole group and small group instruction: drawing conclusions, identifying themes, and essay writing. In order to reach our target goals for the next school year, ACCS will implement the following action plan for all grades:

A. ELA Grades K-6: Scott Foresman Reading Street

1. Teachers will administer their grade level baseline test during the first full week of school. Based on an item analysis of the benchmark results, students will be grouped for instruction.
2. In grades 1-6, the teachers will administer spelling tests weekly.
3. In grades 1-6, the teachers will administer running records/fresh-reads on a monthly basis to gather information about a student's reading behavior (comprehension, decoding/word recognition strategies, fluency). The results will be used to inform instruction and determine if a BRI needs to be administered.
4. Teachers in grades 1-6 will administer Scott Foresman selection tests biweekly. Every five to six weeks, teachers in grades K-6 will administer a unit benchmark test to assess skills and strategies taught in the unit. These test questions mirror the NYS ELA test. Students who have not mastered the skills taught will be re-taught the skills by the teacher, TA, AIS support teacher, or in after school tutoring sessions. Scott Foresman provides an immediate intervention plan that can be used for re-teaching any concept.
5. Teachers will meet with the ELA Curriculum Coordinator to discuss the test results and discuss lesson plans, pacing, and student progress.

6. In grades K-2, the teachers will administer the Scott Foresman Word List in February and June. The Word List at each grade contains key sight words that students need to master for that grade. Students not mastering the words are re-taught by the teacher, TA, or AIS support teacher.
7. In grades K-6, the teachers will administer an end of the year test during the second week of June. After grading the test and completing an item analysis for each student, teachers will meet with curriculum coordinators to discuss the results. These test results along with other assessments will be used to review student grade level progress for the year and to determine AIS grouping for the next school year.
8. During ELA instruction, the teachers will follow their pacing chart and the NYS ELA standards for their grade level.
9. All testing results will be used to inform instruction and as one component in determining students report card grades.

B. DIBELS (Kindergarten)

In Kindergarten, the teachers will administer the benchmark test in September and in May to all students. All students scoring below benchmark levels will be re-taught targeted skills by the teacher, TA, and AIS teachers. These students will be progressed monitored one a month. The teacher will meet with the ELA Curriculum Coordinator to identify strategies and interventions.

C. Basic Reading Inventory-BRI (Grades 1-6)

1. Teachers/AIS Staff will administer a BRI to those students who fail the comprehension section of the selection test two times consecutively.
2. After scoring the BRI, teachers will meet with the ELA Curriculum Coordinator to discuss results and plan appropriate strategies for students. Students who have not mastered the skills taught will be re-taught the skills by the teacher, TA, AIS support teacher, or in after school tutoring sessions. These results will be used as one component in determining students' report card grades.

D. Test Preparation using results from NYS ELA Test (grades 3-6)

1. In August, the ELA Curriculum Coordinator will meet with each teacher in grade 4-6 to review the NYS 2009 ELA test. The Coordinator will go over the item analysis and teacher recommendations from the previous year. Teachers will use the item analysis results and teacher recommendations (work on comprehension strategies, writing responses to short answer questions, and essay writing) as a teaching tool to prepare the students for the next test in January.
2. In August, Grade 3 teachers and the ELA Curriculum Coordinator will review the second grade results on the Terra Nova. They will use the results to create lessons in preparing the students for the test in January.
3. In September, the teachers in grades 3-6 will administer the 2009 ELA test. Upon correction of the test, teachers will meet with the ELA Coordinator to discuss the test results and determine strengths and areas of need in preparing for the upcoming NYS assessments.
4. Starting in September, the teachers in grades 3-6 will use the NYS Coach Test Prep books from Triumph Learning as part of their center activities during the ELA block. These books are aligned to the standards, performance indicators, and test structure.
5. Additional ELA test prep lessons will be determined and assigned as needed.

E. ELA Grades K-6: Using Great Source Write Source

Teachers will use the Write Source books to teach the writing process, the six traits of writing (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and convention), the forms of writing, and the basic elements of writing.

F. Placement of New Students

The Scott Foresman ELA Baseline Test will be administered to each student upon entry into a grade from September to December. The results will be used to assist teachers in ELA instruction for the rest of the school year.

G. Academic Support (AIS)

1. Criteria for Inclusion:

- Students who score at a Level 1 or 2 on the state test
- Students who score on Terra Nova at the 30th percentile or less in First and Second Grades
- Students who score at less than 75% performance on the report card
- Students who score low on the Kindergarten screening tests
- Students receiving a low 3 on either the NYS ELA test of Terra Nova Test will be targeted to receive AIS in the beginning of the school year. The length of time in the program will be determined by classroom performance and selection and unit benchmark test scores throughout the school year.

2. AIS Support:

- The teachers will administer pre-post tests to students and record results on the ACCS server.
- The teachers will be using Sidewalks from Scott Foresman. The intervention strategies will be based on the specific needs of the students. This program is scientifically based.
- The teachers will be using Ladders for Success from Triumph Learning to provide test prep intervention for their students in grades 3-6. This program is designed to help struggling students master fundamental grade appropriate reading skills that are essential to success in both the curriculum and on the NYS ELA test.
- The ELA Curriculum Coordinator will meet with the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the AIS staff monthly to discuss student progress.

H. Curriculum Team

1. The curriculum team will meet with each teacher on a regular basis (biweekly) to discuss students' individual progress.
2. On Monday and Tuesday of each week, the curriculum team will meet with the Director of Curriculum and Instruction to discuss individual class progress and concerns as well as individual student progress and concerns. (Monday-ELA Tuesday-Math).
3. Each week, the curriculum team will review lesson plans and test results posted on the ACCS server.
4. The curriculum coordinator will report and discuss possible candidates for AIS or IST meetings to the Director for Curriculum and Instruction during their weekly meetings.
5. The curriculum coordinator will provide a monthly report on student progress to the Leadership Team.

MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

Students will understand the concepts and become proficient with the skills of mathematics; communicate and reason mathematically; and become problem solvers by using appropriate tools and strategies through the integrated studies of number sense and operations, algebra, geometry, measurement, and probability

Background

ACCS uses the Pearson Scott Foresman Mathematics Program which is aligned with the NYS Learning Standards, and provides direct, systematic instruction across the grades. All classrooms use a daily math block. Scott Foresman Program offers structure and guidance for the mathematics block and strong support for students performing at multiple levels. For mathematics Academic Intervention Services (AIS) in grades K-6, ACCS staff uses the Math Diagnosis and Intervention System which is a component of the Scott Foresman program.

Scott Foresman Mathematics promotes mathematical proficiency by focusing on the development of both mathematics skills and essential understandings. This is accomplished through an articulation of essential outcomes and conceptual understandings for both teacher and student; questioning strategies that develop higher order-thinking skills embedded into the student and teacher materials; and the development of mathematical communication as a means of building a deep understanding of important mathematics.

Ongoing assessment and diagnosis are coupled with strategic intervention to meet the individual needs of students, including frequent and timely student assessments integrated throughout the program to demonstrate student understanding and guide and monitor instruction.

The staff employs a common language and knowledge to support strategies that promote scientifically based math instruction. The staff participates in ongoing professional development provided by the ACCS Curriculum Coordinators and professional conferences. As a result of this ongoing support, ACCS staff possesses the special knowledge and training needed to effectively teach students to understand the concepts of and become proficient with the skills of mathematics; to communicate and reason mathematically; and to become problem solvers by using appropriate tools and strategies.

Goal 2: Absolute Measure

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State mathematics examination.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program mathematics assessment to students in grades 3 through 6 in March 2009. Each student's raw score has been converted to a performance level and a grade-specific scaled score. The criterion for success on this measure requires students who have been enrolled in at least their second year (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year) to score at Levels 3 or 4.

The table below summarizes participation information for this year’s test administration. The table indicates total enrollment and total number of students tested. It also provides a detailed breakdown of those students excluded from the exam. Note that this table includes all students according to grade level, even if they have been enrolled for less than one year.

**2008 - 09 State Mathematics Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ³			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	25				25
4	20				20
5	20				20
6	11				11
7					
8					
All	76	0	0	0	76

Results

The following table presents the state math test results for all students and for those students enrolled in at least their second year in 3rd through 6th grade. In 2008-09, 93 percent of tested students who were enrolled in at least their second year scored at or above Level 3 (proficient).

**Charter School Performance on 2008 - 09 State Mathematics Exam
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grade	Population	Percent at Each Performance Level					Number Tested
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3/4	
3	All Students			80%	20%	100%	25
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		0%	80%	20%	100%	25
4	All Students		10%	70%	20%	90%	20
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		10%	70%	20%	90%	20
5	All Students	5%	15%	60%	20%	80%	20
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		11%	67%	22%	89%	18
6	All Students		9%	73%	18%	91%	11
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		9%	73%	18%	91%	11
All	All Students	1%	8%	71%	20%	91%	76
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year		7%	73%	20%	93%	74

Evaluation

ACCS achieved this goal. Schoolwide, with 93 percent of students scoring at Level 3 or above, the school exceeded the measure by 18 percentage points. ALL grade levels each exceeded the 75 percent target by large margins - 100 percent in Grade 3, 90 percent in Grade 4, 89 percent in Grade 5 and 91 percent in Grade 6.

³ Students exempted from this exam according to their Individualized Education Program (IEP), because of English Language Learners (ELL) status, or absence for at least some part of the exam

Additional Evidence

The table below shows the school's math performance trends over the past five years. The school has shown dramatic and systematic growth, beginning with 40 percent proficient in 2005-06, 73 percent proficient in 2006-07, 89 percent in 2007-08, and 93 percent in 2008-09. We believe this achievement is a clear sign that the substantive changes made in the fall of 2006 to our math program were successful.

Mathematics Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Second Year at Levels 3 and 4									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3			43%	7	77%	13	88%	17	100%	25
4	83%	12	22%	9	85%	13	94%	16	90%	20
5			56%	9	54%	13	70%	10	89%	18
6					75%	16	100%	13	91%	11
All	83%	12	40%	25	73%	55	89%	56	93%	74

Goal 2: Absolute Measure

Each year, the school’s aggregate Performance Index (PI) on the State mathematics exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state’s NCLB accountability system.

Method

The federal No Child Left Behind law holds schools accountable for making annual yearly progress towards all students being proficient by the year 2013-14. As a result, the state sets an Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) each year to determine if schools are making satisfactory progress toward the goal that 100 percent of students will ultimately be proficient in the state’s learning standards in Mathematics. To achieve this measure, all tested students must have a Performance Index (PI) value that equals or exceeds this year’s Mathematics AMO, which for 2008-09 is 119. The PI is calculated by adding the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 2 through 4 with the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 3 and 4. Thus, the highest possible PI is 200.

Results

The table below presents the calculation of the school’s Performance Index (PI) for mathematics for the current year. The aggregate PI value for 2008-09 is 189.

Calculation of 2008 - 09 Mathematics Performance Index (PI)

Grades	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level				Number Tested
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
3-6	0	11%	56%	33%	74

$$\begin{array}{rclclclclcl}
 \mathbf{PI} & = & 11 & + & 56 & + & 33 & = & 100 \\
 & & & & + & & 33 & = & 89 \\
 & & & & & & \mathbf{PI} & = & \mathbf{189}
 \end{array}$$

Evaluation

ACCS has met this measure. The school’s Performance Index (PI) value of 189 substantially exceeded the current Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) of 119.

Additional Evidence

The table below shows the school's substantial progress over the past four years towards reaching the NCLB goal that all students will be proficient in mathematics by the year 2013-14. Our Performance Index has exceeded the state's AMO each year as the percent of students at Levels 1 and 2 has steadily and markedly decreased. For the past two years, not one student has performed at Level 1, and the percentage of students performing at Level 2 has dropped from 44 percent in 2005-06 to only seven percent in 2008-09. We are on our way to reaching the NCLB goal of 100% proficiency well before 2013-14.

**Mathematics Performance Index (PI) and
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) by School Year**

Year	Grades	Number Tested	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level				PI	AMO
			Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4		
2005-06	3-5	25	16%	44%	32%	8%	124	86
2006-07	3-6	55	2%	25%	62%	11%	162	86
2007-08	3-6	56		11%	56%	33%	190	102
2008-09	3-6	74		7%	73%	20%	189	119

Goal 2: Comparative Measure

Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the state mathematics exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

Method

Tested students who were enrolled in at least their second year are compared to all tested students in the surrounding public school district. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students and the results for the respective grades in the local school district, as well as between the total result of students in at least their second year at the school and the total result for the corresponding grades in the school district.

Results

The table below compares the performance of ACCS to the Troy School District on the 2008-09 mathematics exam. Schoolwide, ACCS outperformed the Troy City School District in all grades 3-6, with 93 percent proficiency compared to 74 percent proficiency for the aggregate of those grades in Troy.

**2008-09 State Mathematics Exam
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level**

Grade	Percent of Students at Levels 3 and 4			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		Troy District	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	100%	25	78%	305
4	90%	20	75%	301
5	89%	18	74%	272
6	91%	11	70%	279
All	93%	74	74%	1157

Evaluation

ACCS met this measure. We exceeded the aggregate district performance of Troy by 19 percentage points and exceeded Troy’s performance at all grade levels. Troy’s proficiency at each grade level ranged from 70 to 78 percent compared to an ACCS proficiency ranging from 89 to 100%.

Additional Evidence

The table below compares mathematics performance of ACCS with Troy over the last five years. After performing below the district aggregated results in 2005-06, ACCS has steadily and substantially improved, outperforming the district as a whole for the third consecutive year. Where Troy outperformed ACCS by 18 percentage points in 2005-06, we reversed the trend in 2006-07 by outperforming the district by 14 percentage points, and widened that performance gap by 20 percentage points in 2007-08 and 19 percentage points in 2008-09.

Mathematics Performance of Charter School and Local District by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Charter School Students Enrolled in At Least Second Year and All District Students at Levels 3 and 4									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
3			43%	69%	77%	72%	88%	82%	100%	78%
4	83%	76%	22%	65%	85%	60%	94%	70%	90%	75%
5			56%	40%	54%	54%	70%	60%	89%	74%
6					75%	52%	100%	63%	91%	70%
All			40%	58%	73%	59%	89%	69%	93%	74%

Goal 2: Comparative Measure

Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state mathematics exam by at least a small Effect Size (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for free lunch among all public schools in New York State.

Method

The Charter Schools Institute conducts a Comparative Performance Analysis, which compares the school’s performance to demographically similar public schools state-wide. Regression analysis is used to control for the percentage of students eligible for free lunch among all public schools in New York State. The school’s actual performance is then compared to the predicted performance of public schools with a similar free lunch percentage. The difference between the school’s actual and predicted performance, relative to other schools with similar free lunch statistics, produces an Effect Size. An Effect Size of 0.3 is considered performing higher than expected to a small degree, which is the requirement for achieving this measure. Given the timing of the state’s release of poverty data, the 2008-09 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2007-08 results, the most recent ones available.

Results

The table below presents the performance of the school on the mathematics test compared to predictions of public schools with a similar free lunch percentage. The school’s overall comparative performance is “higher than expected to a large degree” for 2007-08. We anticipate our 2008-09 results to be comparable.

2007-08 Mathematics Comparative Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Free Lunch Eligible Students	Number of Students Tested	Percent of Students at Levels 3&4		Difference between Actual and Predicted	Effect Size	
			Actual	Predicted			
3	83.33	21	90.50	82.55	7.95	0.68	
4		21	95.30	73.13	22.17	1.53	
5		13	76.90	71.57	5.33	0.32	
6		14	92.90	62.76	30.14	1.60	
7							
8							
All			69	89.89	73.60	16.29	1.06

School’s Overall Comparative Performance:
Higher than expected to a large degree

Evaluation

ACCS met this measure in 2007-08. The school’s aggregate Effect Size exceeded the 0.3 level. We anticipate the school’s overall comparative performance for 2008-09 to be comparable.

Goal 2: Growth Measure

Each year, each grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year’s state mathematics exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year’s state mathematics exam. If a grade-level cohort exceeds 75 percent at or above Level 3 in the previous year, that cohort is expected to show at least an increase in the current year.

Method

This measure examines the change in performance of the same group of students from one year to the next and the progress they are making towards the absolute measure of 75 percent proficient. Each grade level cohort consists of those students who took the state exam in 2008-09 and also have a state exam score in 2007-08. It includes students who repeated the grade. The criterion for achieving this measure is for each grade-level cohort to halve the difference between the percentage of students proficient in 2007-08 and 75 percent proficient in 2008-09. If a cohort had already achieved 75 percent proficient in 2007-08, it is expected to show some positive growth in the subsequent year. In addition, the aggregate of all cohorts is examined to determine the growth of all students who took a state exam in both years.

Results

The table below shows growth for each current grade level cohort. Overall, the cohort did not show a gain, yet maintained a strong 91percent proficiency rate. Two of the three cohorts - grades 4 and 6 - achieved their growth targets. The 5th grade did not.

Cohort Growth on State Mathematics Exam from 2007-08 to 2008-09

Grade in 2008-09	Cohort Size	Percent at Levels 3 and 4			Target Achieved
		2007-08	Target	2008-09	
4	17	94%	gain	94%	NO
5	17	94%	gain	88%	NO
6	10	80%	gain	90%	YES
All	44	91%	gain	91%	NO

Evaluation

We did not meet this outcome measure. Schoolwide, students taking the math exam for two consecutive years maintained a strong 91 percent proficiency rate but did not achieve an overall gain. The only cohort to achieve its growth target was Grade 6. Grade 4 maintained its very strong 94% rate but did not show a gain. Grade 5 was the only cohort to lose ground, declining by six percentage points in 2008-09. After reviewing the test results and item analysis for each grade, we have identified in our action plan the skills that will be reinforced.

Additional Evidence

The table below summarizes the mathematics cohort performance over the past three years. In 2006-07, two cohorts met the target (Grade 5 did not). Last year, all three cohorts met their growth target. This year, only one cohort met its growth target (Grade 6).

**Cohort Performance on Mathematics Exam
Since the Advent of the Grades 3-8 Testing Program by School Year**

School Year	Cohort Grades	Number of Cohorts Meeting Target	Number of Cohorts
2006-07	4-6	2	3
2007-08	4-6	3	3
2008-09	4-6	1	3

Summary of the Mathematics Goal

The Ark Community Charter School has met four of the five accountability measures for mathematics in 2008-09. The growth measure becomes more difficult to reach as our performance stabilizes.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State examination.	Achieved
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Index (PI) on the State exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the State exam by at least a small Effect Size.	Achieved
Growth	Each year, each grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year's state exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year's State exam.	Did not achieve

Action Plan

A review of the state mathematics test results and corresponding item analysis showed that Grade 4 maintained a very strong rate of proficiency (94percent) but did not show a gain. In addition, Grade 5 was the only cohort to lose ground, declining by six percentage points in 2008-09. Based on this information, in grades 4 and 5, teachers will follow the NYS testing guidance recommendations not only for their specific grade levels but also those included in the post – March suggestions for the previous grade level. In grade 4, particular attention will be placed on multiplication by two-digit numbers, geometry and the statistics/probability strand. In grade 5, particular attention will be placed on decimals, geometry and graphing. At both levels, more emphasis will be placed on writing responses to constructive response type questions.

In his statement during the news conference to release the 2009 Mathematics test scores, State Education Commissioner Richard Mills agreed with Regents Chancellor Merryl H. Tisch regarding increasing the rigor of the current 3 – 8 testing system. Commissioner Mills said, “As students progressed through the grades, their performance in mathematics increased steadily, although the gains have been small to moderate as measured by average scale scores. Nevertheless, we see children in earlier grades scoring at higher levels than their older siblings. That’s a good sign if it continues. As we prepare to develop the next set of tests for 2010, it’s probably time to raise the bar again.” We at ACCS understand the significance of this statement and will continue to stress student mastery of New York State Standards at each grade level in our mathematics program.

The ACCS faculty and Leadership Team will continue to use a core math program by Scott Foresman which is aligned with the New York State Math Standards and performance indicators. Grades 3-6 will follow curriculum guidance materials (NYS) pre/post March. These materials

indicate the Performance Indicators (content) that students need to master prior to taking the NYS test in March. They also highlight those concepts that must be taught to prepare students for the next grade level. The guidance materials coincide with the text pacing materials. Text pacing has been structured so that appropriate topics will be covered prior to the NYS testing in March.

Based on the 2008-09 NYS Mathematics test results and the Item Analysis for each grade, we have determined the following actions:

- Grade 3 will continue to follow the recommended NYS Curriculum and testing guidance information. They will also continue to place emphasis on answering constructive response type questions.
- Grades 4 – 6 will also follow the NYS grade level Curriculum and testing guidance for their specific levels, but also will use the post – March recommendations from the previous grade level and review this content with their students. At these levels there will be emphasis placed on answering constructive response type questions in each content area.
- In addition, upon review of the Item Analysis, the following content areas will be a focus for the upcoming year:
 - Grade 4 – multiplication of two-digit numbers, geometry, and statistics/probability
 - Grade 5 – decimals , geometry, and graphing
 - Grade 6 – geometry

In order to reach our target goal in Mathematics, ACCS will implement the following action plan for all grade levels:

A. Mathematics Grades K-6: Using Scott Foresman Mathematics Program

1. In reviewing student performance on this year's NYS Mathematics Test and in discussions with teachers regarding specific areas of need, we determined that in addition to daily instruction in mathematics concepts we will put added emphasis on the following areas in both our classroom mathematics instruction and Academic Intervention Services throughout the 2009 – 2010 school year: mathematics vocabulary, mastery of basic facts ($=$, $-$, \times , \div) and writing responses to constructive response type questions.
2. Teachers will administer their grade level baseline test during the first full week of school. After grading the test, teachers will complete an item analysis for each student and then meet with the curriculum coordinator to discuss the results. At this time, individual student and whole class strengths /areas of need will be determined. This data will be used in planning instruction throughout the school year.
3. Teachers in Grades K – 2 will follow the recommended Scott Foresman program and NYS Mathematics standards for their grade level. Using the Scott Foresman program and NYS standards, teachers (Grades 3 – 6) will be assigned concepts and lessons to be taught before March, as per NYS recommendations, to prepare their students for the NYS test.
4. Teachers in grades K - 6 will administer Scott Foresman test prep activities daily. These activities will reinforce previously learned mathematics concepts.

5. Students in Kindergarten will be administered chapter tests throughout the program as an assessment of specific concept mastery.
6. In grades 1-6, students will be tested throughout a chapter of study using quizzes that assess the concepts (performance indicators) taught. These quizzes are designed using NYS test format. After testing, students who do not master a concept will be grouped and re-taught the skill by the teacher or TA using the re-teaching component of the Scott Foresman program.
7. In grades 1- 2, students will be administered chapter tests and also cumulative review tests after chapters 3, 6, and 9 to assess mastery of concepts previously studied. Students who are determined in need of review of specific concept areas will receive additional assistance during the small group sessions (centers) which are part of the mathematics teaching blocks.
8. In grades 3 – 6, students will be administered chapter tests and Cumulative Review tests following chapters 3, 6, and 9 to assess mastery of and retention of concepts previously learned. Students determined to need additional support/review in various Performance Indicators will receive assistance during the Mathematics teaching block by the classroom teacher or teaching assistant.
9. All testing results will be used to inform instruction and as one component in determining students' report card grades.
10. Teachers K - 6 will administer the Cumulative test (Final Exam) for Chapters 1 – 12 during the second week in June. After grading this test, teachers will complete an item analysis for each student. These results along with other assessments given throughout the school year will be used to review students' grade level progress for the year. Results of these tests will be used when determining eligible students for Academic Intervention Services for the school year 2010 - 2011.
11. Teachers will meet with the Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator bi - weekly to discuss lessons, planning, pacing, mathematics testing results, concerns and most importantly students' progress.

B. Mathematics: Test Preparation for the NYS Mathematics Test Grades 3 – 6

1. The Mathematics Curriculum Coordinator will meet in August with teachers to review the results of the previous year's NYS Mathematics test. Teachers will use these results (strengths and areas of need) when structuring lessons in preparing their students for the upcoming spring test. (In Grade 3, teachers will review the Terra Nova results from Grade 2.)
2. During the first week in October, teachers will administer a practice NYS Mathematics test using the previous year's test. After completion of both test correction and an item analysis, teachers at these grade levels will meet with the Coordinator to discuss the test results and determine a plan to prepare their students for the upcoming NYS assessment. Additional mathematics support will be determined and assigned at this time, if needed.

3. Teachers Grades 3- 6 will administer Scott Foresman test preparation activities daily. These activities will reinforce previously learned mathematics concepts both at the present grade level and from previous grade instruction.
4. Beginning in October, teachers in Grades 3 – 6 will use the Coach Test Prep Books (March – To – March Edition) from Triumph Learning as part of their small group activities during the Mathematics block.
5. Additional test preparation activities will be determined as needed.

C. New Students

The Scott Foresman Mathematics Baseline test will be administered to each student upon entry into a grade from September to December. The results will be used to assist teachers in mathematics instruction for the second portion of the school year.

D. Academic Intervention Services(AIS)

The eligibility criteria for receiving AIS services are:

- Students scoring at a level 1 or 2 on the NYS tests.
 - Students scoring in Grades 1 and 2 at the 30th percentile or less on the Terra Nova test.
 - Students receiving scores of less than 75% performance on their report card.
 - Students receiving a low 3 on either the NYS Mathematics Test or Terra Nova Test will be targeted to receive AIS in the beginning of the school year. The length of time in the program will be determined by classroom performance and chapter and cumulative test scores throughout the school year.
1. Teachers will administer pre/post tests to students and record results on the ACCS server.
 2. Teachers will use two programs from Scott Foresman for their interventions based on the specific needs of their students. Both programs are scientifically based.
 - Math Diagnosis and Intervention System – paper/pencil driven program
 - Investigations – a hands – on program that stresses both concepts and skills
 3. Teachers will use Ladders for Success from Triumph Learning to provide Test Prep intervention for their students. This program focuses on specific skills/concepts that are part of NYS Mathematics Core Curriculum.
 4. The Mathematics Coordinator will meet with the Director for Curriculum and Instruction and the AIS staff when deemed appropriate.

English Language Learners (ELL)

1. Students being served by the ESL teacher and not performing at expected levels in Mathematics within the regular classroom setting will receive additional instruction in mathematics during their ESL pull - out time. Special emphasis will be placed on our three focus areas for 2009 – 2010: mathematics vocabulary, learning basic mathematics facts (+, -, x, ÷), and writing responses when completing constructive response type questions.
2. The Mathematics Coordinator will meet with the Director for Curriculum and Instruction and the ESL teacher when deemed appropriate.

E. Curriculum Team

1. The curriculum team will meet with each teacher on a regular basis (biweekly) to discuss both the class and students' individual progress.
2. On Monday and Tuesday of each week, the curriculum team will meet with the Director for Curriculum and Instruction to discuss individual class and student progress and concerns. (Monday-ELA Tuesday-Math).
3. The curriculum coordinator will review lesson plans/ test results for classes weekly.
4. The curriculum coordinator will report and discuss possible candidates for AIS or IST meetings to the Director for Curriculum and Instruction during their weekly meetings.
5. The curriculum coordinator will provide a monthly report on student progress to the Leadership Team.

SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science

Students will understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical setting and living environment and recognize the historical development of ideas in science.

Background

The school's science curriculum is based on the New York State Core Curriculum in Science. The program prepares students to understand, explain, analyze and interpret the relationships, processes, mechanisms and application of our physical setting and our living environment. All classrooms use two science blocks weekly, as well as time integrated with the arts. Since students learn most effectively when they are actively engaged in the discovery process, the elementary and intermediate science programs emphasize a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to learning. This approach to science instruction provides students with opportunities to interact directly with the natural world or through laboratory settings to practice problem-solving skills, develop positive science attitudes, learn new science content, and increase their scientific literacy.

Multiple assessments are used to evaluate student knowledge and to inform instruction. Assessments include classroom work, homework, test and quizzes in the classroom, rubrics for lab work, exhibitions and portfolios. The faculty employs a common language and knowledge to support strategies for hands-on science instruction and participates in ongoing professional development provided by the ACCS Curriculum Coordinators and professional conferences. As a result of this ongoing support, teachers possess the special knowledge and skill to effectively teach students to understand and apply scientific concepts, principles, and theories pertaining to the physical setting and living environment.

Goal 3: Absolute Measure

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State science examination.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program science assessment to students in grade 4 in spring 2009. Each student’s raw score has been converted to a performance level and a grade-specific scaled score. The criterion for success on this measure requires students who have been enrolled in at least their second year (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year) to score at Levels 3 or 4.

Results

The following table presents the state science test results for all students and for those students enrolled in at least their second year in Grade 4. In 2008-09, 94 percent of students who were enrolled in at least their second year scored at or above Level 3 (proficient).

**Charter School Performance on 2008-09 State Science Exam
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grade	Population	Percent at Each Performance Level					Number Tested
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3/4	
4	All Students	0	5	50	45	95	20
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year	0	6	41	53	94	17

Evaluation

ACCS achieved this goal. With 94 percent of students scoring at Level 3 or above, the school exceeded the measure by a wide margin, with 19 percentage points. Additionally, over half (53 percent) reached the highest, mastery level - Level 4.

Additional Evidence

The table below shows the school’s science performance trends over the past five years. We have historically performed well in science and have continued to improve our performance from 71 percent proficient in 2004-05 to 94 percent in 2008-09.

**Science Performance
by Grade Level and School Year**

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Second Year at Levels 3 and 4									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
4	71	14	75	8	69	13	88	17	94	17

Goal 3: Comparative Measure

Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State science exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

Method

Tested students who were enrolled in at least their second year are compared to all tested students in the surrounding public school district. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students and the results for the respective grades in the local school district.

Results

Statewide science results are not yet publicly available for 2008-09, so we are unable to compare our performance with Troy.

**2008-09 State Science Exam
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level**

Grade	Percent of Students at Levels 3 and 4			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		All Troy District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
4	94	17	Not yet available	Not yet available

Evaluation

Statewide science results are not yet publicly available for 2008-09, so we are unable to compare our performance with Troy. However, given Troy’s relatively stable performance over the past several years (ranging from 78 to 87 percent proficient), we anticipate their 2009 science scores to be somewhere in the high 80s. If that assumption is accurate, we will outperform Troy by at least several percentage points.

Additional Evidence

The table below compares the science performance of ACCS with Troy over the past five years. After several years of performing below the district, ACCS has steadily improved and we hope to outperform Troy for the second consecutive year. Where Troy outperformed ACCS by 18 percentage points in 2006-07, we reversed that trend in 2007-08. We expect to outperform them again this year.

**Science Performance of Charter School and Local District
by Grade Level and School Year**

Grade	Percent of Charter School Students Enrolled in At Least Second Year and All District Students at Levels 3 and 4									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
4	71	78	75	86	69	87	88	85	94	Not yet available

Summary of the Science Goal

The Ark Community Charter School anticipates meeting both accountability measures of the science goal for 2008-09. We have met and substantially exceeded the absolute measure and await the release of the science scores to verify our expectation that we will also meet the comparative measure.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State examination.	ACHIEVED
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	Not Yet Available

Action Plan

The results of our students on the science assessment indicate that our science curriculum is effective. In order to maintain this high level of performance and encourage an even greater percentage of students to reach the mastery level, ACCS will implement the following action plan:

A. Grades K-6: Using the NYS Elementary and Intermediate Core Curriculum

1. Teachers in Grades K – 4 will follow the recommended NYS Elementary Core Curriculum and NYS Science standards for their grade level. Teachers in Grades 5-6 will follow the recommended NYS Intermediate Science Core Curriculum, NYS Science Skills and Standards and supplement grade level curriculum with the Scott Foresman Science program. The following assessments are used to evaluate student knowledge and inform instruction:
 - **Classroom Assessments.** Students will demonstrate performance at standard through class work, homework, tests and quizzes.
 - **Lab Work and Exhibitions.** Lab work demonstrations of student knowledge and skill are assessed using rubrics and checklists.
 - **Portfolios.** Portfolios are collections of artifacts that document student work over time and are assessed using rubrics and checklists.
2. Teachers will meet monthly with the Curriculum Coordinator to discuss lesson plans, pacing, and assessment results. Students who do not master a concept will be re-taught the skill by the teacher or TA.

B. Test Preparation using results from NYS Science Test

1. In August, the Curriculum Coordinator and the teacher will review the results of the previous year’s NYS Science test. Based on the results, teachers will adjust the K-4th grade science curriculum.

2. In December, the 4th grade teacher will administer the previous year's Science test. Upon correction of the test, the teacher and the Coordinator will determine students' strengths and weakness. Results will be used to inform instruction.
3. The Fourth grade teacher will use the Measure Up program from September through April. This program reviews all the NYS science standards and skills.
4. Curriculum Coordinator will meet with 5th and 6th grade teachers after each unit assessment to evaluate and adjust the science curriculum.

C. Criteria for Inclusion in AIS

Students qualify for AIS when they score at a level 1 or 2 on a state test.

D. Curriculum Coordinator

1. The Curriculum Coordinator will meet monthly with the K-6 teachers to discuss teaching strategies, assessments and students' progress.
2. The Curriculum Coordinator will meet bi-weekly with the 4th grade teacher to discuss students' progress.
3. The Curriculum Coordinator will review lesson plans weekly.
4. The curriculum coordinator will provide a monthly report on student progress to the Leadership Team.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Goal 4: Social Studies

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of history, geography, government and economic systems of New York, the United States, and the world. They will also demonstrate their understanding of civics and citizenship.

Background

The school's social studies curriculum is based on the New York State Social Studies Core Curriculum. All classrooms use two social studies blocks each week, as well as time integrated with the arts. Through explorations of history, geography, economics, government, and civics, students learn about the people, places, eras and events that shape our world.

Multiple assessments are used to evaluate student knowledge and to inform instruction. Assessments include classroom work, homework, test and quizzes in the classroom, rubrics for exhibitions and portfolios.

The faculty receives ongoing professional development provided by the curriculum coordinators and through professional conferences. With this support, the faculty possesses the special knowledge and training needed to effectively teach students to use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of culture, major ideas, eras, themes, developments, and turning points in the history of New York, our country and the world.

Goal 4: Absolute Measure

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State social studies examination.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program social studies assessment to students in 5th grade in November 2008. Each student’s raw score has been converted to a performance level and a grade-specific scaled score. The criterion for success on this measure requires students who have been enrolled in at least their second year (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year) to score at Levels 3 or 4.

Results

The following table presents the state social studies results for all students and for those students enrolled in at least their second year in 3rd through 6th grade. In 2008-09, 88 percent of tested students who were enrolled in at least their second year scored at or above Level 3 (proficient).

**Charter School Performance on 2008-09 State Social Studies Exam
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grade	Population	Percent at Each Performance Level					Number Tested
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3/4	
5	All Students	10	5	50	35	85	20
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year	6	6	47	41	88	17

Evaluation

ACCS achieved this goal. Schoolwide, with 88 percent of students scoring at Level 3 or above, the school exceeded the measure by 13 percentage points.

Additional Evidence

The table below shows the school’s social studies performance trends over the past five years. The school had inconsistent results in years 2004 through 2006, but in 2007-08, a majority of students (83 percent) and in 2008-09, 88% were proficient and this year. We believe our scores have stabilized at a high level of performance and are due to the substantive changes we made in the fall of 2006 to the writing component of our English language arts program.

**Social Studies Performance
by Grade Level and School Year**

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Second Year at Levels 3 and 4									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
5	30	10	90	10	33	12	83	12	88	17

Goal 4: Comparative Measure

Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State social studies exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

Method

Tested students who were enrolled in at least their second year are compared to all tested students in the surrounding public school district. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students and the results for the respective grades in the local school district.

Results

Statewide social studies results are not yet publicly available for 2008-09, so we are unable to compare our performance with Troy.

**2008-09 State Social Studies Exam
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level**

Grade	Percent of Students at Levels 3 and 4			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		All Troy District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
5	88	17	Not Yet Available	Not Yet Available

Evaluation

Statewide social studies results are not yet publicly available for 2008-09, so we are unable to compare our performance with Troy. However, given Troy’s relatively stable performance over the past several years (ranging from 77 to 85 percent proficient), we anticipate their 2009 social studies scores to be somewhere in the high 70s to low 80s. If that assumption is accurate, we will outperform Troy by at least several percentage points.

Additional Evidence

The table below compares the social studies performance of ACCS with Troy over the past five years. After several years of inconsistent performance, ACCS has steadily improved and, we predict will now outperform the district as a whole for the second consecutive year.

**Social Studies Performance of Charter School and Local District
by Grade Level and School Year**

Grade	Percent of Charter School Students at Levels 3 and 4 and Enrolled in At Least their Second Year Compared to Local District Students									
	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
5	30	78	90	85	33	78	83	77	88	Not Yet Available

Summary

The Ark Community Charter School anticipates meeting both accountability measures of the social studies goal for 2008-09. We have exceeded the absolute measure and await the release of the social studies scores to verify our expectation that we will also meet the comparative measure.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State examination.	ACHIEVED
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	Not Yet Available

Action Plan

The test results of our students on the social studies assessment indicate that our social studies curriculum is effective. In order to maintain this high level of performance and encourage an even greater percentage of students to reach the mastery level, ACCS will implement the following action plan:

A. Social Studies Grades K-6: Using the NYS Core Curriculum

1. Teachers in Grades K – 6 will follow the recommended NYS Social Studies Core Curriculum and NYS Social Studies standards for their grade level. Teachers in Grades 2-6 supplement grade level curriculum with the Scott Foresman Social Studies program. The following assessments are used to evaluate student knowledge and inform instruction:
 - **Classroom Assessments.** Students will demonstrate performance at standard through class work, homework, tests and quizzes.
 - **Performances and Exhibitions.** Performances and exhibitions are demonstrations of student knowledge and skill and are assessed using rubrics and checklists.
 - **Portfolios.** Portfolios are collections of artifacts that document student work over time and are assessed using rubrics and checklists.
2. Teachers will meet with the Curriculum Coordinator to discuss lessons plans, pacing, and assessment results. Students who do not master a concept/skill will be re-taught the skill or concept by the teacher or TA.

B. Test Preparation using results from NYS Social Studies Test

- a. In September, the 5th grade teacher will administer the previous year's Social Studies test. Results will be used to inform instruction.
- b. Grade 4 and 5 teachers will meet bi-monthly to assess students' strengths and weakness in skills and the concepts covered in the social studies curriculum.

- c. In December, the Curriculum Coordinator will meet with each teacher to analyze the most recent NYS Social Studies test. Based on the results, teachers will review and adjust the K-5th grade social studies curriculum.
- d. The Curriculum Coordinator will meet with the 5th and 6th grade teacher to evaluate the results of curriculum post unit tests. Based on the results, the teacher will adjust the 5th and 6th grade social studies curriculum.

C. Criteria for Inclusion in AIS

Students qualify for AIS when they score at a level 1 or 2 on a state test.

D. Curriculum Coordinator

1. The Curriculum Coordinator will meet monthly with the K-6 teachers to discuss teaching strategies, assessments and students' progress.
2. The Curriculum Coordinator will review lesson plans weekly.
3. The Curriculum Coordinator will provide a monthly report on student progress to the Leadership Team.

NCLB

Goal 5: NCLB

Under the state’s NCLB accountability system, the school’s Accountability Status will be “Good Standing” each year.

Goal 5: Absolute Measure

Under the state’s NCLB accountability system, the school’s Accountability Status will be “Good Standing” each year.

Method

Since *all* students are expected to meet the state's learning standards, the federal No Child Left Behind legislation stipulates that various sub-populations and demographic categories of students among all tested students must meet the state standard in and of themselves aside from the overall school results. New York, like all states, established a system for making these determinations for its public schools. Each year the state issues School Report Cards which indicate each school’s status under the state’s NCLB accountability system. For a school’s status to be “Good Standing” it must not have failed to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years.

Results

The school has met this measure in 2008-09 with a rating of “Good Standing”.

Evaluation

The table below shows that the school has historically met this measure.

NCLB Status by Year

Year	Status
2003-04	Good Standing
2004-05	Good Standing
2005-06	Good Standing
2006-07	Good Standing
2007-08	Good Standing
2008-09	Good Standing