Success Academy Charter School – Fort Greene

2013-14 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on:

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By Brett Wagoner

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Brett Wagoner, Data Reporting Associate, prepared this 2013-14 Accountability Plan Progress Report on behalf of the school's board of trustees:

Trustee's Name	Board Position
Sam Cole	Chair
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Cate Shainker	
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Lance Rosen	
Derrell Bradford	
Khadijah Patrick-Pickel	*Ex-officio* Parent Representative

Kate Cunningham served as the school leader in 2013-2014.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of Success Academy Charter School – Fort Greene ("SA Fort Greene") is to provide students in New York City with an exceptionally high-quality education that gives them the knowledge, skills, character, and disposition to meet and exceed New York State Common Core Learning Standards and the resources to lead and succeed in school, college, and a competitive global economy.

School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year[1]

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2010-11														
2011-12														
2012-13														
2013-14	71	51												122

[1] Enrollment numbers are current as of March 31, 2014. Per instruction from SUNY, enrollment numbers reflect originating charters.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts
Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, and comprehending the English language.

Background

Believing that all students can succeed, SA Fort Greene goes above and beyond Common Core standards. SA Fort Greene uses THINK Literacy, a comprehensive balanced literacy program, in all grades. THINK Literacy was developed in-house by the Instructional Management team at Success Academy Charter Schools, the charter management organization. There are many components of THINK, including Shared Text, Guided Reading, Read Aloud with Discussion, Reading Workshop, and Writing Workshop. During Shared Text, the teacher displays a text and the whole class reads and analyzes it together, giving students practice interpreting brief, engaging texts. During Guided Reading, the teacher works with a small group of students to read and comprehend a book that is one level above what they can read and understand independently. During Read Aloud with Discussion, the teacher models the internal thinking that excellent readers exhibit, and students discuss their ideas about the book with their classmates. During Reading Workshop and Writing Workshop, students internalize key aspects of great reading and writing, through direct instruction, independent work, and partner work. All THINK components press students to read, write, think, and speak with clarity and precision.

In kindergarten and first grade, students also receive extensive phonics instruction. This early literacy curriculum is modeled on an enhanced version of Success For All (SFA), which has a proven track record in urban schools and has been implemented in 1,300 schools around the United States.

Students are assessed in reading regularly. They progress to the next instructional reading level when ready. Thus, children are assigned to appropriate reading levels based on reading performance, not age or grade.

SA Fort Greene enforces specific protocols for how it collects, distributes, and analyzes data. These protocols work to help teachers and school leaders freely access information in real-time. In a fast-paced and constantly changing school environment, having ready access to academic data empowers the staff to better decide how to expend time and resources so as to maximize student achievement.

SA Fort Greene views its teachers as Olympic athletes who must constantly train and improve their skills. Professional development is a regular part of their professional responsibilities as it develops skills, provides content area knowledge, and improves pedagogical techniques so that the teachers are prepared to “win the race” that is educating children. Further information is available in the school’s charter.

Goal 1: Absolute Measure
Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State English language arts examination for grades 3-8.

This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State ELA exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State English language arts examination in 2013-14.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Goal 1: Absolute Measure
Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Level Index (PLI) on the State English language arts exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State English language arts examination in 2013-14.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Goal 1: Comparative Measure
Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency 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

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State English language arts examination in 2013-14 or in any of the comparison years.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Goal 1: Comparative Measure
Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state English language arts exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State.[2]

Method

SUNY has not provided Effect Size data.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

[2] The Institute will continue using ***economically disadvantaged*** instead of ***eligibility for free lunch*** as the demographic variable in 2013-14. Schools should report previous year's results using reported free-lunch statistics.

Goal 1: Growth Measure[3]
Each year, under the state's Growth Model, the school's mean unadjusted growth percentile in English language arts for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state's unadjusted median growth percentile.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State English language arts examination in 2013-14.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Summary of the English Language Arts Goal

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State English language arts exam for grades 3-8. This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State ELA exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.	N/A
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Level Index (PLI) on the state English language arts exam will meet that year's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	N/A
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state English language arts exam will be greater than that of students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	N/A
Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state English language arts exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. (Using 2012-13 school district	N/A

[3] See Guidelines for Creating a SUNY Accountability Plan for an explanation.

	results.)	
Growth	Each year, under the state's Growth Model the school's mean unadjusted growth percentile in English language arts for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state's unadjusted median growth percentile.	N/A

Action Plan

While progress cannot yet be measured quantitatively, the school remains confident that the program and curriculum described here and in the charter will lead to academic achievement that meets the goals outlined in the Accountability Plan.

MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics
Students will show competency in their understanding and application of mathematical computation and problem solving.

Background

SA Fort Greene uses Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) and the Investigations math program. Some of its key elements are described below:

- Problem Solving – CGI offers students a chance to solve real world, contextualized mathematical problems using conceptual understanding. Students learn the basics of problem solving strategies by solving daily word problems that require critical thinking and both written and verbal expression of mathematical reasoning. Students work individually to solve a problem and then share their strategies with their peers. The teacher leads a discussion based on student strategies that leads to understanding of mathematical properties.

- Assessment – SA Fort Greene administers Math Interim Assessments and weekly quizzes to determine the progress of students with respect to the Common Core standards. Teachers use the data to inform future instruction.

- Common Core State Standard Alignment – SA Fort Greene has mapped the scope and sequence of CGI and the Investigations math program to closely align with the Common Core. This scope and sequence closely follows the state and national requirements of what students should know and be able to do at each administration of the state math assessments. By aligning closely with the Common Core and assessments, teachers will have a much better sense of where their students stand in SA Fort Greene's goal of preparing all students for college-track level mathematics in middle and high school.

- Conceptual Understanding – Investigations math places an emphasis on open-ended exploration and interactive learning components to each lesson to let students make sense of mathematics by building on ideas and observations from previous experiences. By

learning mathematical ideas and procedures that is grounded in meaning, students are able to apply their thinking to new situations and unfamiliar problems. CGI uses daily world problems to give students meaning, understanding, and application to the math they learn.

- Computational Fluency – SA Fort Greene also provides students with regular math facts practice because it recognizes the importance of computational fluency. Math facts quizzes emphasize both accuracy and speed.

Goal 2: Absolute Measure
Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State mathematics examination for grades 3-8.

This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State mathematics exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State mathematics examination in 2013-14.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Goal 2: Absolute Measure
Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Level Index (PLI) on the State mathematics exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State mathematics examination in 2013-14.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Goal 2: Comparative Measure
Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state mathematics exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State mathematics examination in 2013-14 or in any of the comparison years.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Goal 2: Comparative Measure
Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state mathematics exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State.[4]

Method

SUNY has not provided Effect Size data.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

[4] The Institute will continue using ***economically disadvantaged*** instead of ***eligibility for free lunch*** as the demographic variable in 2013-14. Schools should report previous year's results using reported free-lunch statistics.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Goal 2: Growth Measure[5]
Each year, under the state's Growth Model, the school's mean unadjusted growth percentile in mathematics for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state's unadjusted median growth percentile.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State mathematics examination in 2013-14.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Summary of the Mathematics Goal

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State mathematics exam for grades 3-8. This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State math exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.	N/A
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Level Index (PLI) on the state mathematics exam will meet that year's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	N/A
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state mathematics exam will be greater than that of students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	N/A

[5] See Guidelines for Creating a SUNY Accountability Plan for an explanation.

Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state mathematics exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. (Using 2012-13 school district results.)	N/A
Growth	Each year, under the state's Growth Model the school's mean unadjusted growth percentile in mathematics for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state's unadjusted median growth percentile.	N/A

Action Plan

While progress cannot yet be measured quantitatively, the school remains confident that the program and curriculum described here and in the charter will lead to academic achievement that meets the goals outlined in the Accountability Plan.

SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science
Students will understand and apply scientific principles at a proficient level.

Background

The school's curriculum is unique in its attention to science, including unprecedented daily instruction. The school uses a discovery-based, experiential approach to science, guided by the most influential authorities on elementary science education today, the American Association for the Advancement of Science Benchmarks and the National Resource Council National Science Education Standards. Taught by specialized science teachers, students have hands-on experience with objects, materials, and organisms to understand the natural world. The curriculum provides students with a solid foundation in discovery-based science to ensure that they can excel in middle and high school science classes.

Goal 3: Absolute Measure
Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State science examination.

This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State science exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State science examination in 2013-14.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Goal 3: Comparative Measure
Each year, the percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state science exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State science examination in 2013-14 or in any of the comparison years.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Summary of the Science Goal

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State science examination. This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State science exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's	N/A

	performance.	
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	N/A

Action Plan

While progress cannot yet be measured quantitatively, the school remains confident that the program and curriculum described here and in the charter will lead to academic achievement that meets the goals outlined in the Accountability Plan.

NCLB

Goal 4: NCLB
The school will make Adequate Yearly Progress.

Goal 4: Absolute Measure
Under the state's NCLB accountability system, the school's Accountability Status is in good standing: the state has not identified the school as a Focus School nor determined that it has met the criteria to be identified as a local-assistance-plan school.

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 state proficiency standards. New York, like all states, established a system for making these determinations for its public schools. Each year the state issues School Report Cards that indicate each school's status under the state's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability system.

Results

SA Fort Greene did not receive an NCLB status in 2013-14.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

NCLB Status by Year

Year	Status
2010-11	N/A
2011-12	N/A
2012-13	N/A