

Explore Charter School



2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Submitted to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute:

October, 2018

By Explore Charter School

655 Parkside Avenue

Brooklyn, NY 11226

718-703-4484

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Explore Schools Inc. prepared this 2017-18 Accountability Progress Report on behalf of the school's board of trustees:

Trustee's Name	Board Position
Hank Mannix	Finance Committee, Board Chair
Jana Reed	Finance and Accountability Committee, Vice-Chair
Peter Walker	Finance Committee, Treasurer
Robert Archer	Parent Representative
Angie Brice Thomas	Accountability Committee, Member
Lindsey Danon	Accountability Committee, Member
Morty Ballen	Member

Latasha Williams and Anwar Abdul-Rahman have served as the school leaders since 2017

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Explore Charter School is a K-8 public charter school in Flatbush, Brooklyn. Explore opened in 2002 and has been graduating 8th grade classes to some of the top college-preparatory high schools in New York City since 2008. Explore's mission is to provide students with the academic skills and critical-thinking abilities they need to succeed in a college-preparatory high school. For the 2017-18 school year, Explore serves 534 students as of June 27, 2018.

School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
2013-14	59	58	60	60	60	60	59	57	54	527
2014-15	60	58	59	58	61	60	52	57	55	520
2015-16	62	59	61	56	59	60	56	51	55	519
2016-17	63	60	55	59	62	57	58	55	48	517
2017-18	61	60	60	58	58	59	57	54	57	534

GOAL 1: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

Explore Charter School students will meet grade level expectations in English.

BACKGROUND

For the 2017-18 school year, Explore Charter School used the Core Knowledge Language Arts Skills and Listening & Learning Strands for grades K-2 and Expeditionary Learning in cohort with Teachers College Writing curriculum, Words Their Way, and Grammar Works, for grades 3-8. In addition, the school reserved a block for independent reading, and students who are reading below grade level as per F&P also receive guided reading or Leveled Literacy Intervention. Explore also offers students four periods per week of Close Reading where they read short grade-level texts and dissect the main ideas and craft and structure moves in order to build independence as readers. Students are now taught to closely read a cold text, identify the genre and central idea, and then analyze the text throughout all subject areas.

In April 2017, Explore partnered with Lavinia Group to train teachers on close reading strategies. This work includes dedicated professional development during pre-service and the school year with consultants from Lavinia Group working directly with Explore teachers and leaders.

ESI has also invested in further building out its Program Team. In May 2018, we hired a Senior Director of Literacy. She, along with a Network Literacy Specialist, is working to ensure Explore leaders have the tools, resources and access to high quality trainings for literacy instruction.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Goal 1: Absolute Measure

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

METHOD

The school administered the New York State Testing Program English language arts (“ELA”) assessment to students in 3rd through 8th grade in April 2018. Each student’s raw score has been converted to a grade-specific scaled score and a performance level.

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 not enrolled in at least their second year (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year).

2017-18 State English Language Arts Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ¹				Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	Refused	
3	59					59
4	56				1	57
5	57				3	60
6	57					57
7	54					54
8	57					57
All	340				4	344

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Students enrolled in at least their 2nd year at Explore did not meet this measure. Explore missed this measure by 32.5 percentage points. While we did not achieve this measure, we did see significant growth (14.5 percentage point growth over 2016-17) overall, and 5 of our 6 testing grades grew by over 10 percentage points from 2016-17. In addition, our 8th graders who have been at Explore for 2+ years grew by over 20 percentage points from 2016-17.

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.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Performance on 2017-18 State English Language Arts Exam By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year

Grades	All Students		Enrolled in at least their Second Year	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
3	45.8%	59	44.4%	54
4	39.3%	56	38.0%	50
5	24.6%	57	26.4%	53
6	42.1%	57	45.1%	51
7	40.7%	54	40.0%	50
8	59.6%	57	60.0%	55
All	42.1%	340	42.5%	288

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Overall, Explore students in at least their 2nd year in 2018 saw growth (14.5 percentage points) over 2017 performance in ELA. The majority of grades also improved over previous years. We believe this is a direct result of multiple changes implemented in 2017-18, including our partnership with Lavinia Group to implement close reading strategies. With this continued partnership, coupled with a stable school leadership team, we expect to see continued growth in 2018-19. We also credit this growth to the implementation of systematic and cohesive processes for collecting and responding to data.

ELA Performance by Grade Level and Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	35.42%	48	28.3%	46	44.4%	54
4	28.00%	50	19.6%	51	38.0%	50
5	27.59%	58	15.7%	51	26.4%	53
6	21.15%	52	24.1%	54	45.1%	51
7	31.91%	47	42.6%	54	40.0%	50
8	28.85%	52	37.5%	48	60.0%	55
All	28.66%	307	28.0%	304	42.5%	288

Goal 1: Absolute Measure

Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Index ("PI") on the State English language arts exam will meet that year's state Measure of Interim Progress ("MIP") set forth in the state's ESSA accountability system.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Explore met this measure. Students enrolled in at least their 2nd year at Explore met this measure for ELA and outperformed their local district. This growth can be attributed to many factors, including but not limited to:

- a) More intentional teacher coaching using thoughtful termly benchmarks
- b) Stable instructional leadership with experience working at Explore
- c) Partnership with Lavinia Group to train teachers on close reading strategies
- d) Systematic and cohesive processes for setting benchmarks and responding to data

2017-18 State English Language Arts Exam
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Students at or Above Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		All District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	44.4%	54	45.2%	1376
4	38.0%	50	44.5%	1342
5	26.4%	53	30.1%	1369
6	45.1%	51	45.0%	1444
7	40.0%	50	38.5%	1512
8	60.0%	55	47.1%	1436
All	42.5%	288	41.7%	8479

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Overall, students in at least their 2nd year at Explore outperformed local district students in ELA. In Upper School (6-8) all grades outperformed the district equivalent, suggesting that Explore's students outperform their district counterparts at an increasing rate as their time at Explore increases. For example, in grade 8, our students who have been at Explore for 2+ years exceeded their district counterparts by 12.9%. From 2017 to 2018, Explore eliminated the gap between itself and the district, moving from 5.5% behind to 0.8% ahead.

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

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in at Least their Second Year Scoring at or Above Proficiency Compared to District Students					
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Charter School	District	Charter School	District	Charter School	District
3	35.42%	32%	28.3%	34.8%	44.4%	45.2%
4	28.00%	35%	19.6%	35.8%	38.0%	44.5%
5	27.59%	29%	15.7%	28.5%	26.4%	30.1%

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

6	21.15%	30%	24.1%	24.3%	45.1%	45.0%
7	31.91%	25%	42.6%	34.9%	40.0%	38.5%
8	28.85%	31%	37.5%	41.6%	60.0%	47.1%
All	28.66%	30%	28.0%	33.5%	42.5%	41.7%

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 meaningful degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State.

METHOD

The SUNY Charter Schools Institute (“Institute”) conducts a comparative performance analysis, which compares the school’s performance to that of demographically similar public schools statewide. The Institute uses a regression analysis to control for the percentage of economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. The Institute compares the school’s actual performance to the predicted performance of public schools with a similar concentration of economically disadvantaged students. The difference between the school’s actual and predicted performance, relative to other schools with similar economically disadvantaged statistics, produces an Effect Size. An Effect Size of 0.3, or performing higher than expected to a meaningful degree, is the requirement for achieving this measure.

Given the timing of the state’s release of economically disadvantaged data and the demands of the data analysis, the 2017-18 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2016-17 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

2016-17 English Language Arts Comparative Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Percent of Students at Levels 3&4		Difference between Actual and Predicted	Effect Size
			Actual	Predicted		
3	79.7%	59	45.8%			
4	85.7%	56	39.3%			
5	73.7%	57	24.6%			
6	77.2%	57	42.1%			
7	64.8%	54	40.7%			
8	66.7%	57	59.6%			
All	74.7%	340	42.1%			

School’s Overall Comparative Performance:

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

English Language Arts Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2014-15						
2015-16	3-8	70.6	333	29.0	31.6	-0.16
2016-17						

Goal 1: Growth Measure³

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 target of 50.

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 in comparison to other students with the same score in the previous year. The analysis only includes students who took the state exam in 2016-17 and also have a state exam score from 2015-16 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2015-16 score are ranked by their 2016-17 score and assigned a percentile based on their relative growth in performance (student growth percentile). Students' growth percentiles are aggregated school-wide to yield a school's mean growth percentile. In order for a school to perform above the target for this measure, it must have a mean growth percentile greater than 50.

Given the timing of the state's release of Growth Model data, the 2017-18 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2016-17 results, the most recent Growth Model data available.⁴

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

2016-17 English Language Arts Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

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

⁴ Schools can acquire these data from the NYSED's Business Portal: portal.nysed.gov.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Target
4		50.0
5		50.0
6		50.0
7		50.0
8		50.0
All		50.0

English Language Arts Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Target
4	40.8	40.2		50.0
5	40.9	38.9		50.0
6	40.4	55.5		50.0
7	49.2	53.4		50.0
8	38.9	54.1		50.0
All	42.1	48.6		50.0

SUMMARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS GOAL

We achieved the first comparative measure. We did not meet the first absolute measure. We do not currently have sufficient information from our Authorizer to determine the remaining goals. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

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.	Did not Achieve
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate PI on the state's English language arts exam will meet that year's state MIP as set forth in the state's ESSA accountability system.	
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 school district of comparison.	Achieved
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 2016-17 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 target of 50. (Using 2016-17 results.)	

ACTION PLAN

Curriculum

K-2:

In grades K-2, we have a renewed focus on Foundational Skills. By removing non-essential elements, we have made room for teachers and students to devote more time and energy to Foundational Skills using a standards-aligned curriculum (Core Knowledge). In a change this year, all of our students receive Foundational Skills, while below grade level students receive Skills twice (“Skills double dose”) based on data.

To ensure students are learning to think critically about texts and the choices authors make to communicate meaning, we have added an Interactive Read-Aloud (IRA) and/or Close Reading to our instructional program in K-2.

3-5:

In grades 3-5, we are implementing the revised EL modules fully, including the writing component. We removed TC Writing to allow teachers to focus more fully on EL. For our below level readers, we use assessment data (F&P, Interim Assessments) to choose the appropriate intervention (CKLA Skills, Wilson, LLI, etc.) to remediate their reading gaps.

6-8:

In grades 6-8, we are partnering with Expeditionary Learning to pilot their new EL modules. The new modules are designed to have greater alignment to the CCSS with an emphasis on critical thinking and reading complex texts.

All grades:

We have strengthened our approach to unit and module planning. Our teachers now begin their planning process by examining the unit or module assessment, then they design their instruction to ensure students learn the skills tested by the assessment.

ENL students:

In grades K-2, we have implemented Language Studio. This is a content-based companion program of Core Knowledge for ENL students.

In grades 3-8, we have implemented Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP), an approach to teaching English to non-proficient speakers. SIOP uses an approach to close reading that aligns to the program we are implementing through our partnership with Lavinia Group.

Approach to data-driven instruction

In 2018-19, Explore will continue to set End of Year (EOY) measures tied to official assessments. In ELA, these assessments include state exams, Fountas & Pinnell, Core Knowledge Skills, and the NYSESLAT. In a change this year, we’ve added measures designed to target special populations, including: students with disabilities, ENL, etc. Explore has also adopted cycle measures that identify intervals for improvement on internal assessments in order to be on track to meet EOY measures. Teachers use these measures to set classroom level goals and track progress toward them throughout the year.

Progress toward benchmarks is tightly monitored, through weekly data tracking of student outputs aligned to each measure, and through teacher observations, feedback and professional development aligned to a focused set of teacher inputs. Almost all network driven professional development and resource creation is aligned to the benchmarks with student outputs and teacher inputs identified termly. Student outputs are defined as observable student behaviors that indicate

progress toward achieving the cycle and EOY measures. Teacher inputs are defined as observable strategies and actions teachers can take that will lead to the student outputs.

This year, Explore is using Power BI, a data analysis software, to simplify the process for viewing progress on these teacher inputs and student outputs. This allows teachers and leaders to access real-time data and make immediate instructional changes. In addition, Explore has streamlined the process for collecting benchmark data. All data is now collected through Illuminate, Explore's student information system.

Strategic Planning

In addition to the steps listed above, ESI is currently implementing a three-year strategic plan that will guide the organization through the next charter term and accelerate results. Through a nine-month rigorous process with Mr. Evan Rudall, a seasoned CEO of a high-performing CMO (Uncommon Schools), the Board approved a strategic plan that prioritizes resources in service of five priorities proven to yield results. The two strategic priorities that impact ELA instruction are:

- Develop and implement clear and coherent K-8 literacy and math vision and program consistent with Explore Network's core beliefs, vision, and mission.
- Develop and implement instructional enabling systems that increase rigor and use data to drive instruction.

While these strategic priorities are straightforward, they each have associated milestones and benchmarks, which will force ESI (and Explore) to allocate resources to achieve the priorities and accelerate student outcomes next term.

GOAL 2: MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

Explore Charter School students will meet grade level expectations in Math.

BACKGROUND

The shift to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) required the network to re-evaluate its curricular materials and approach to supporting math instruction at the school level. In the 2015-16 school year, ESI added a Director of Math position who would develop and deliver quality professional development sessions and provide instructional coaching for leaders and teachers. In the Spring of 2016, ESI decided to re-invest in the TERC Investigations math curriculum for the 2016-17 school year, as a newer, CCSS-aligned version of that curriculum had just been released. About 16 months later, the following year's math results showed a decline; by the first week of September 2017, ESI engaged the services of Student Achievement Partners (SAP), a nationally-renowned organization founded by one of the authors of the Common Core, to audit the network's math program. SAP found that the newly released TERC Investigations curriculum did not fully align with the CCSS for grades 3-8. When reviewing available CCSS-aligned curriculum options, we found that the Achievement First (AF) curriculum not only aligned to the CCSS and NYS math exam, but also includes materials and student practice work aligned to our goals of building critical thinking skills, conceptual understanding and strong scholarly work habits. In addition, we found that

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

schools using AF Math had good results on the NYS math exam. Recognizing the need to immediately provide students with a stronger curriculum, Explore adopted the AF Math curriculum in grades 3-8 in October 2017. Explore used the 2017 Common-Core Aligned Investigations anchor curriculum in math for Grades K – 2. *(Note: According to EdReports, TERC Investigations is CCSS-aligned in K-2, unlike the same curriculum in 3-8.)*

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.

METHOD

The school administered the New York State Testing Program mathematics assessment to students in 3rd through 8th grade in April 2018. Each student's raw score has been converted to a grade-specific scaled score and a performance level.

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 not enrolled in at least their second year.

2017-18 State Mathematics Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ⁵				Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	Refused	
3	58					58
4	56					56
5	57					57
6	57					57
7	54					54
8	57					57
All	339					339

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Explore students in at least their 2nd year did not meet this measure for Math. Explore missed this measure by 30.1 percentage points. However, we demonstrated significant growth in this area from 2016-17 to 2017-18. Our overall proficiency rate increased by over 20 percentage points, jumping from 24.3% to 44.9%, nearly doubling the number of students achieving proficiency. Our 8th graders who have been at Explore for 2+ years more than tripled their proficiency from 18.8% to 60%.

Performance on 2017-18 State Mathematics Exam

⁵ 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.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year

Grades	All Students		Enrolled in at least their Second Year	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
3	55.2%	58	54.7%	53
4	30.4%	56	30.0%	50
5	15.8%	57	17.0%	53
6	61.4%	57	60.8%	51
7	48.1%	54	46.0%	50
8	59.6%	57	60.0%	55
All	45.1%	339	44.9%	312

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Overall, students in at least their 2nd year at Explore saw significant growth on the math exam from 2017 to 2018 (growth of over 20 percentage points). Each grade at Explore outperformed its 2017 proficiency, with most grades increasing by 10 or more percentage points.

Mathematics Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	25.00%	48	23.9%	46	54.7%	53
4	32.00%	50	15.7%	51	30.0%	50
5	22.41%	58	15.7%	51	17.0%	53
6	55.77%	52	35.2%	54	60.8%	51
7	23.40%	47	35.2%	54	46.0%	50
8	25.00%	52	18.8%	48	60.0%	55
All	30.62%	307	24.3%	304	44.9%	312

Goal 2: Absolute Measure

Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Index ("PI") on the state mathematics exam will meet that year's state Measure of Interim Progress ("MIP") set forth in the state's ESSA accountability system.

METHOD

In New York State, ESSA school performance goals are met by showing that an absolute proportion of a school's students who have taken the mathematics test have scored at the partially proficient,

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

or proficient and advanced performance levels (Levels 2 or 3 & 4). The percentage of students at each of these three levels is used to calculate a PI and determine if the school has met the MIP set each year by the state’s ESSA accountability system. To achieve this measure, all tested students must have a PI value that equals or exceeds the state’s 2017-18 mathematics MIP for all students. The state plans to calculate and disseminate the MIP in summer 2018. The PI is the sum of the percent of students in all tested grades combined scoring at Level 2, plus two times the percent of students scoring at Level 3, plus two-and-a-half times the percent of students scoring at Level 4. Thus, the highest possible PI is 250.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Our performance index for the 17-18 academic year in Math was 131. As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

Mathematics 2017-18 Performance Level Index (PI)									
Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level								
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4					
	24%	31%	25%	20%					
	PI	=	31	+	25	+	20	=	76
					25	+	20	=	45
						+	(.5)*[20]	=	[10]
							PI	=	131

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 school district of comparison.

METHOD

A school compares the performance of tested students enrolled in at least their second year to that of all tested students in the public school district of comparison. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested 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.⁶

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

⁶ Schools can acquire these data when the New York State Education Department releases its database containing grade level ELA and math test results for all schools and districts statewide. The NYSED announces the release of the data on its [News Release webpage](#).

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

2017-18 State Mathematics Exam Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Students at or Above Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		All District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	54.7%	53	46.3%	1398
4	30.0%	50	37.5%	1360
5	17.0%	53	29.1%	1390
6	60.8%	51	34.4%	1476
7	46.0%	50	25.5%	1414
8	60.0%	55	28.9%	1316
All	44.9%	312	33.6%	8354

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Students enrolled in at least their second year at Explore outperformed their district overall in math by more than 10 percentage points. Additionally, all grades saw growth in math from 2017, most by a significant percentage. The majority of grades outperformed 2016 proficiency for the same grade as well. From 2016-17 to 2017-18, Explore eliminated the gap between itself and the district, moving from 2.2% behind to 11.3% ahead.

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

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in at Least their Second Year Who Are at Proficiency Compared to Local District Students					
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Charter School	District	Charter School	District	Charter School	District
3	25.00%	35%	23.9%	38.8%	54.7%	46.3%
4	32.00%	31%	15.7%	28.1%	30.0%	37.5%
5	22.41%	28%	15.7%	28.5%	17.0%	29.1%
6	55.77%	29%	35.2%	29.2%	60.8%	34.4%
7	23.40%	19%	35.2%	17.9%	46.0%	25.5%
8	25.00%	20%	18.8%	16.9%	60.0%	28.9%
All	30.62%	27%	24.3%	26.5%	44.9%	33.6%

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 meaningful degree)

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

according to a regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State.

METHOD

The Institute conducts a Comparative Performance Analysis, which compares the school's performance to that of demographically similar public schools statewide. The Institute uses a regression analysis to control for the percentage of economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. The Institute compares the school's actual performance to the predicted performance of public schools with a similar concentration of economically disadvantaged students. The difference between the school's actual and predicted performance, relative to other schools with similar economically disadvantaged statistics, produces an Effect Size. An Effect Size of 0.3, or performing higher than expected to a meaningful degree, is the requirement for achieving this measure.

Given the timing of the state's release of economically disadvantaged data and the demands of the data analysis, the 2017-18 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2016-17 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

2016-17 Mathematics Comparative Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Percent of Students at Levels 3&4		Difference between Actual and Predicted	Effect Size
			Actual	Predicted		
3	79.3%	58	55.2%			
4	85.7%	56	30.4%			
5	73.7%	57	15.8%			
6	77.2%	57	61.4%			
7	64.8%	54	48.1%			
8	66.7%	57	59.6%			
All	74.6%	339	45.1%			

School's Overall Comparative Performance:

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Mathematics Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2014-15						
2015-16	3-8	70.6	333	30.3	30.8	-0.01
2016-17						

Goal 2: Growth Measure⁷

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 target of 50.

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 in comparison to other students with the same score in the previous year. The analysis only includes students who took the state exam in 2016-17 and also have a state exam score in 2015-16 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2015-16 scores are ranked by their 2016-17 scores and assigned a percentile based on their relative growth in performance (student growth percentile). Students' growth percentiles are aggregated school-wide to yield a school's mean growth percentile. In order for a school to meet the measure, the school would have to achieve a mean growth percentile above the target of 50.

Given the timing of the state's release of Growth Model data, the 2017-18 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2016-17 results, the most recent Growth Model data available.⁸

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

2016-17 Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Target
4		50.0
5		50.0
6		50.0
7		50.0
8		50.0
All		50.0

⁷ See Guidelines for [Creating a SUNY Accountability Plan](#) for an explanation.

⁸ Schools can acquire these data from the NYSED's business portal: portal.nysed.gov.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

As communicated with our Authorizer, we are waiting on additional data points in order to populate and react to this element of the APPR. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Target
4	22.3	45.9		50.0
5	37.9	33.0		50.0
6	12.3	58.8		50.0
7	49.3	59.0		50.0
8	22.7	16.0		50.0
All	29.6	42.0		50.0

SUMMARY OF THE MATHEMATICS GOAL

We achieved the first comparative measure. We did not meet the first absolute measure. We do not currently have sufficient information from our Authorizer to determine the remaining goals. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

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.	Did Not Achieve
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate PI on the state's English language arts exam will meet that year's state MIP as set forth in the state's ESSA accountability system.	
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 school district of comparison.	Achieved
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 2016-17 results.)	
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 target of 50. (Using the 2016-17 results.)	

ACTION PLAN

Curriculum

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

In 2018-19, Explore is continuing to use the 2017 Common-Core Aligned Investigations anchor curriculum in math for K – 2 with the addition of Achievement First (AF) Math Stories to increase rigor of content through contextual application of mathematical knowledge and skills. In Grades 3 - 8, Explore is continuing to use AF Math Lessons.

In the spring of 2018, Explore decided to formalize our partnership with AF. As a result, our leaders and teacher leaders were given official training in implementation of Math Stories and AF Math Lessons. In the summer of 2018, we turnkeyed this training to all teachers.

Explore is also partnering with AF Navigator, which provides comprehensive coaching and tools to schools who are implementing AF curriculum. As a result of this, Explore partners with an AF coach to ensure that Explore’s leaders are equipped to support teachers with intellectual preparation for lessons and giving targeted, data-based feedback.

In K-5, we recognized a need for more time in math to respond to data (in addition to teaching core content). To address this, we extended the math block from 60 to 90 minutes. Teachers use this additional time to conduct spiraled review and reteach, based on data from weekly math quizzes.

For Grades 3 - 8, Explore is utilizing weekly math quizzes to progress monitor student learning. In grades K-2, teachers are implementing Math Stories assessments to track progress on Math Stories implementation.

Approach to data-driven instruction

In 2018-19, Explore will continue to set End of Year (EOY) measures tied to official assessments. Explore has also adopted cycle measures that identify intervals for improvement on internal assessments in order to be on track to meet EOY measures. Teachers use these measures to set classroom level goals and track progress toward them throughout the year. In a change this year, we are using AF’s interim assessments to measure our progress toward our EOY measures. These assessments are normed across AF’s many schools. They are also blind assessments, adding to the fidelity of the data.

Progress toward benchmarks is tightly monitored, through weekly data tracking of student outputs aligned to each measure, and through teacher observations, feedback and professional development aligned to a focused set of teacher inputs. Almost all network driven professional development and resource creation is aligned to the benchmarks with student outputs and teacher inputs identified termly. Student outputs are defined as observable student behaviors that indicate progress toward achieving the cycle and EOY measures. Teacher inputs are defined as observable strategies and actions teachers can take that will lead to the student outputs.

This year, Explore is using Power BI, a data analysis software, to simplify the process for viewing progress on these teacher inputs and student outputs. This allows teachers and leaders to access real-time data and make immediate instructional changes. In addition, Explore has streamlined the process for collecting benchmark data. All data is now collected through Illuminate, Explore’s student information system.

Strategic Planning

As mentioned in the Action Plan for ELA, we are currently implementing a three-year strategic plan that will guide the organization through the next charter term and accelerate results. The plan

prioritizes resources in service of five priorities. The two strategic priorities that impact Math instruction are:

- Develop and implement clear and coherent K-8 literacy and math vision and program consistent with Explore Network’s core beliefs, vision, and mission.
- Develop and implement instructional enabling systems that increase rigor and use data to drive instruction.

While these strategic priorities are straightforward, they each have associated milestones and benchmarks, which will force ESI (and Explore) to allocate resources to achieve the priorities and accelerate student outcomes next term.

GOAL 3: SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science

Explore Charter School students will meet grade level expectations in Science.

BACKGROUND

In 2017-2018, Explore Charter School employed a full-time K-5 science teacher, a 6th grade science teacher who also taught social studies, and a 7-8th grade science teacher. Explore’s Science curriculum is designed to promote inquiry, problem solving skills and exposure to 21st century learning and skills. Science teachers develop their own lessons based on best practices in the field, and they partner with school leaders to ensure the lessons are rigorous and aligned to NYS standards. In January 2018, we hired Dr. David Purvis, a veteran science instructor and consultant recommended to us by Success Academy to work with our network’s science teachers to examine their lessons plans and curriculum to ensure alignment with the NY Science Standards. Dr. Purvis has decades of experience working in science education, and he worked with Success Academies to design their science curriculum. He provides group professional development to all network science teachers, and he also provides one-on-one coaching and lesson plan feedback to individual teachers.

Goal 3: Absolute Measure

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

METHOD

The school administered the New York State Testing Program science assessment to students in 4th and 8th grade in spring 2018. The school converted each student’s raw score to a performance level and a grade-specific scaled score. The criterion for success on this measure requires students enrolled in at least their second year to score at proficiency.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Explore met this measure. Explore 4th and 8th grade students in at least their 2nd year achieved 78.3% proficiency.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Charter School Performance on 2017-18 State Science Exam By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		All District Students	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
4	88.2%	51		
8	69.1%	55		
All	78.3%	106		

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Explore 4th and 8th graders experienced significant growth this year, exceeding 2017 performance in each grade and by 25.2 percentage points overall.

Science Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year at Proficiency					
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
4	76.92%	52	68.0%	50	88.2%	51
8	49.02%	51	37.5%	48	69.1%	55
All	63.11%	103	53.1%	98	78.3%	106

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 school district of comparison.

METHOD

The school compares tested students enrolled in at least their second year to all tested students in the public school district of comparison. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students in at least their second year and the results for the respective grades in the school district of comparison. Given the timing of the state's release of district science data, the 2017-18 comparative data is not yet available. Schools should report comparison to the district's **2016-17** data.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

At this time, we have not received access to district science performance data and therefore cannot determine comparative performance.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

2017-18 State Science Exam Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		All District Students ⁹	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
4	88.2%	51		
8	69.1%	55		
All	78.3%	106		

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

At this time, we have not received access to district science performance data and therefore cannot determine comparative performance.

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

Grade	Percent of Charter School Students at Proficiency and Enrolled in At Least their Second Year Compared to Local District Students					
	2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
	Charter School	District	Charter School	District	Charter School	District
4	76.92%		68.0%		88.2%	
8	49.02%		37.5%		69.1%	
All	63.11%		53.1%		78.3%	

SUMMARY OF THE SCIENCE GOAL

We achieved the absolute measure. We do not currently have sufficient information from our Authorizer to determine the remaining goal. Once we receive this information we will make adjustments to the report and submit via email.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above proficiency on the New York State examination.	Achieved
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 school district of comparison.	

⁹ This table uses the prior year's results as 2017-18 district science scores are not yet available.

ACTION PLAN

Explore Charter School plans to continue implementing a rigorous, standards aligned science curriculum in 2018-19. All 3 of Explore’s science teachers returned to Explore this year, and we expect this stability and experience will lead to further growth. In addition, as stated previously, we attribute much of our growth to our partnership with an external science consultant, Dr. David Purvis. He began his work in January 2018, and he was not present for the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. During 2018-19, we expect Dr. Purvis’s work to be even more impactful, as we will be partnering with him throughout the entire year. Finally, we plan to hold network-wide professional development sessions for science teachers on each of our 4 staff in-service days in 2018-19.

GOAL 4: ESSA

Goal 4: ESSA

Explore will be in good standing.

Goal 4: Absolute Measure

Under the state’s ESSA accountability system, the school is in good standing: the state has not identified the school for comprehensive or targeted improvement.

METHOD

Because *all* students are expected to meet the state's performance standards, the federal statute 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. As New York State, like all states, is required to establish a specific system for making these determinations for its public schools, charter schools do not have latitude in establishing their own performance levels or criteria of success for meeting the ESSA accountability requirements. Each year, the state issues School Report Cards that indicate a school’s status under the state accountability system.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

We currently are waiting for additional information from our authorizer regarding our ESSA Status during the 17-18 school year. However, Explore has been in good standing for the past several years.

Accountability Status by Year

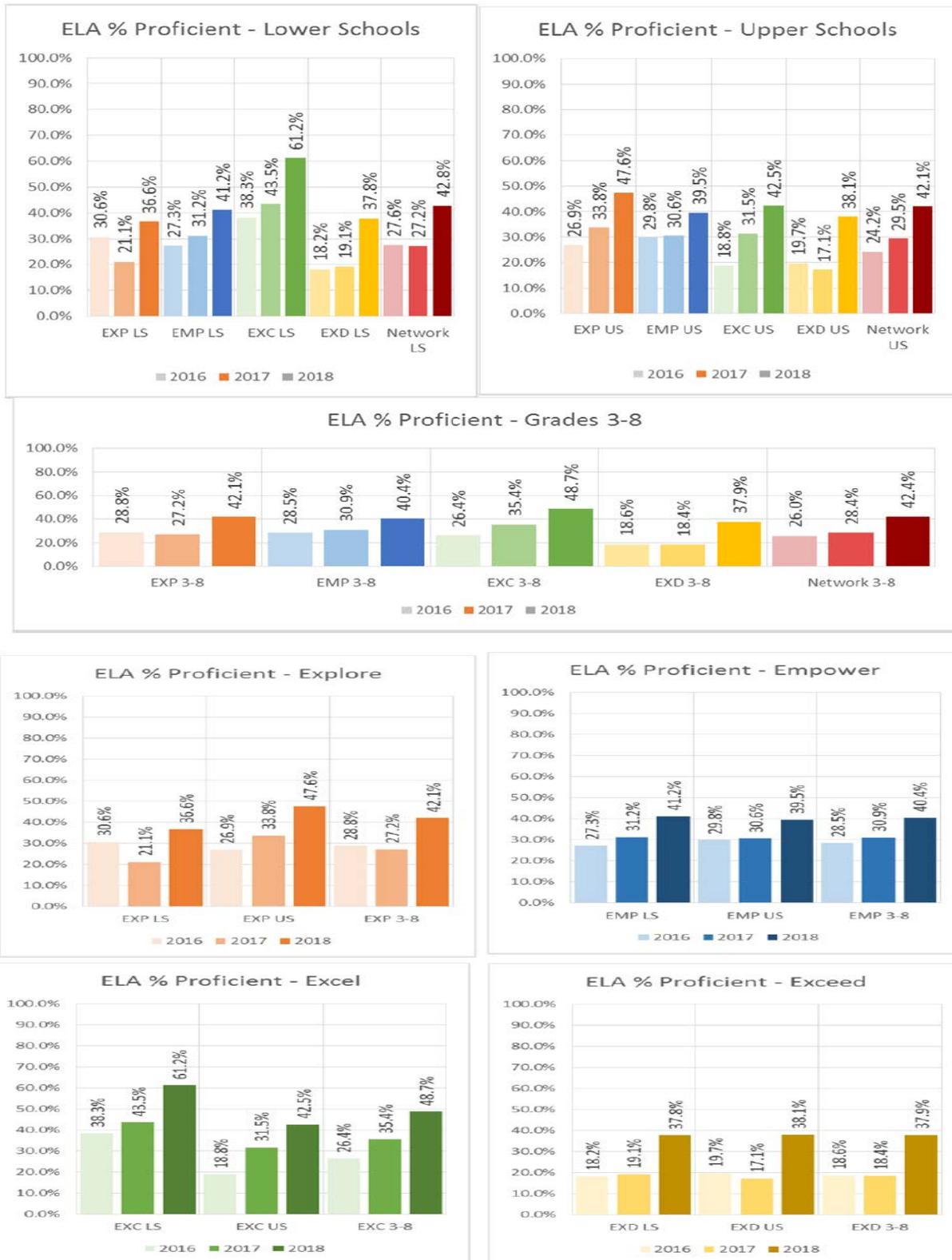
Year	Status
2015-16	Good Standing
2016-17	Good Standing
2017-18	

APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES

See attached appendix for further analysis charts relating to State Test score data analysis.

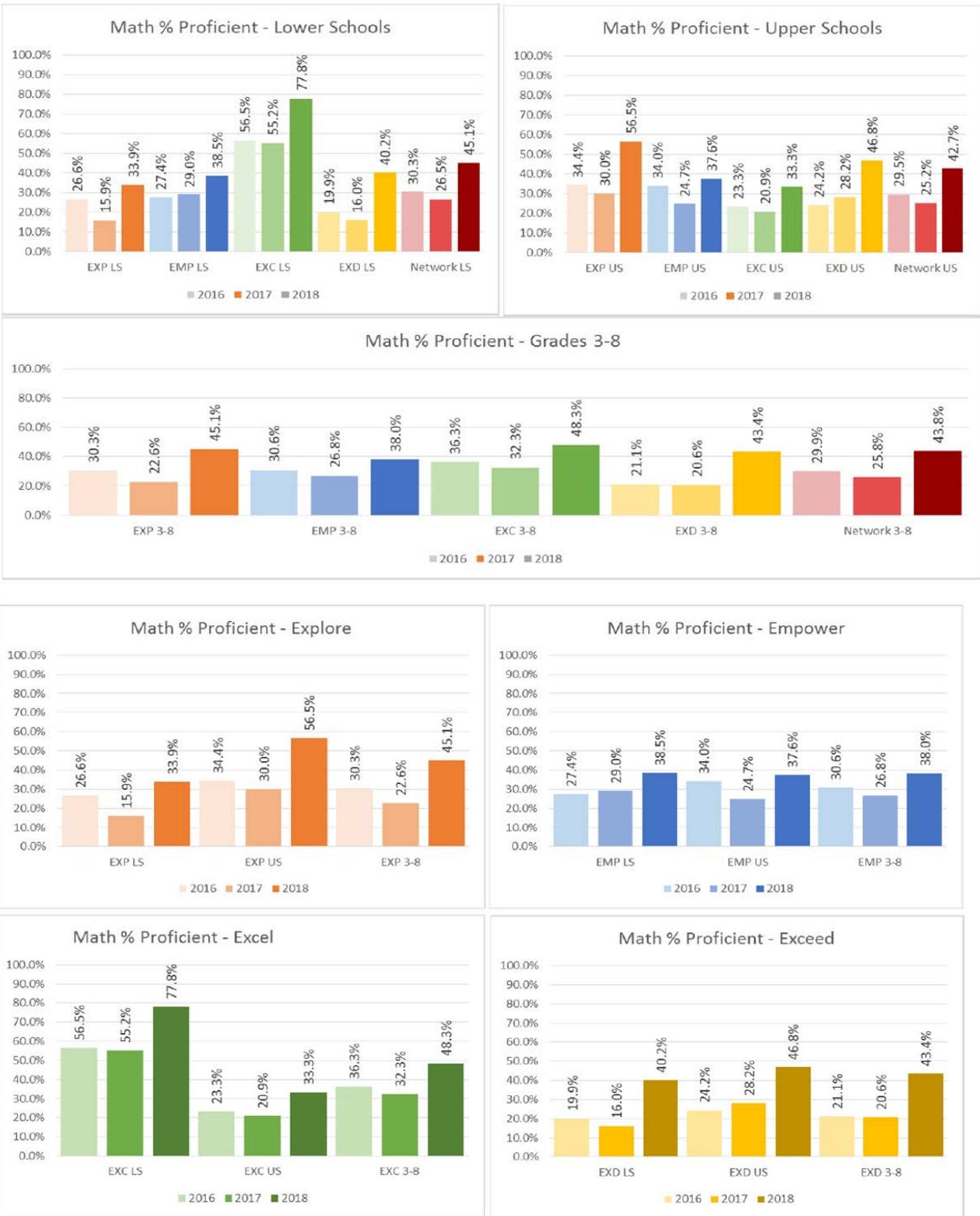
2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

ELA 2016-2018



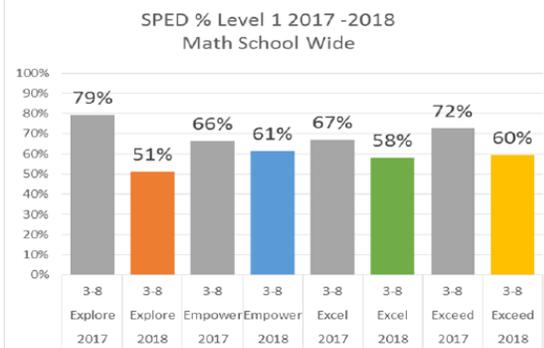
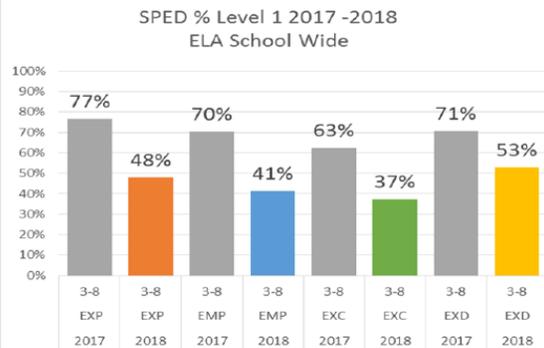
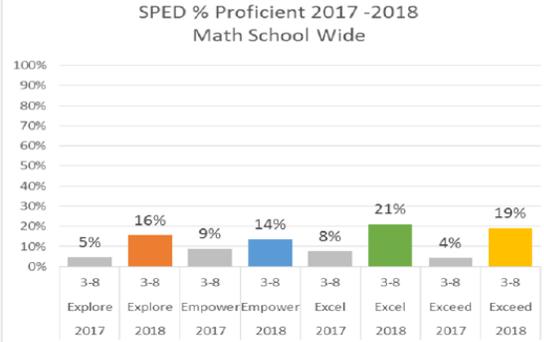
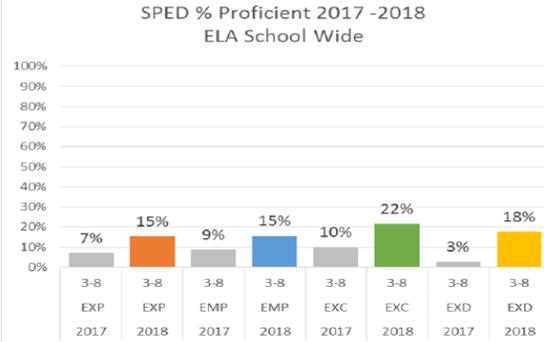
2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Math 2016-2018

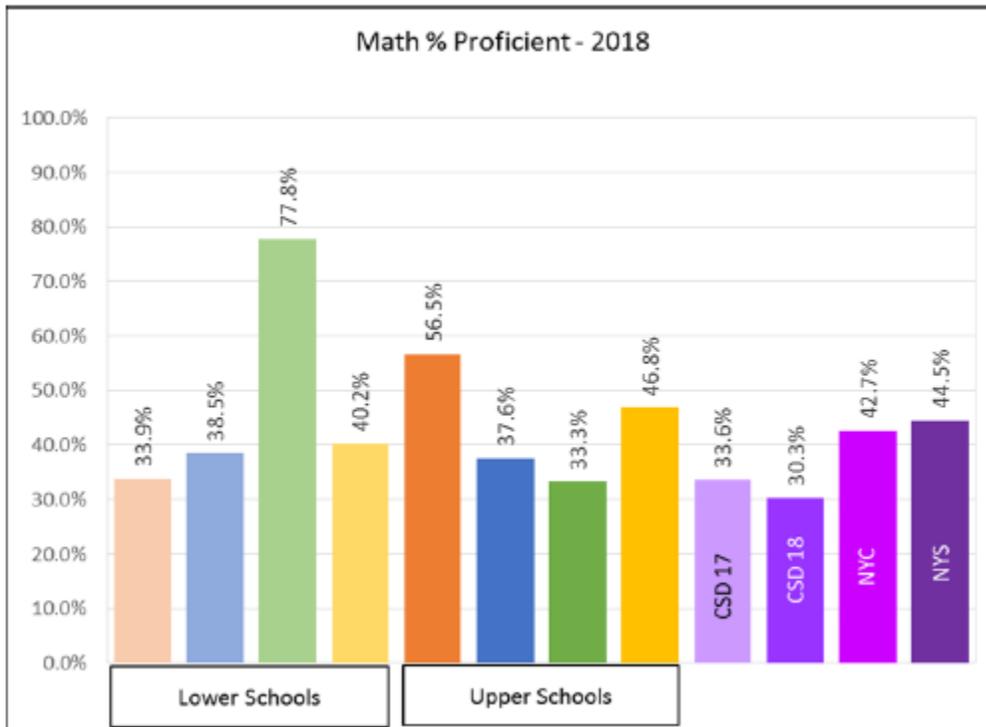
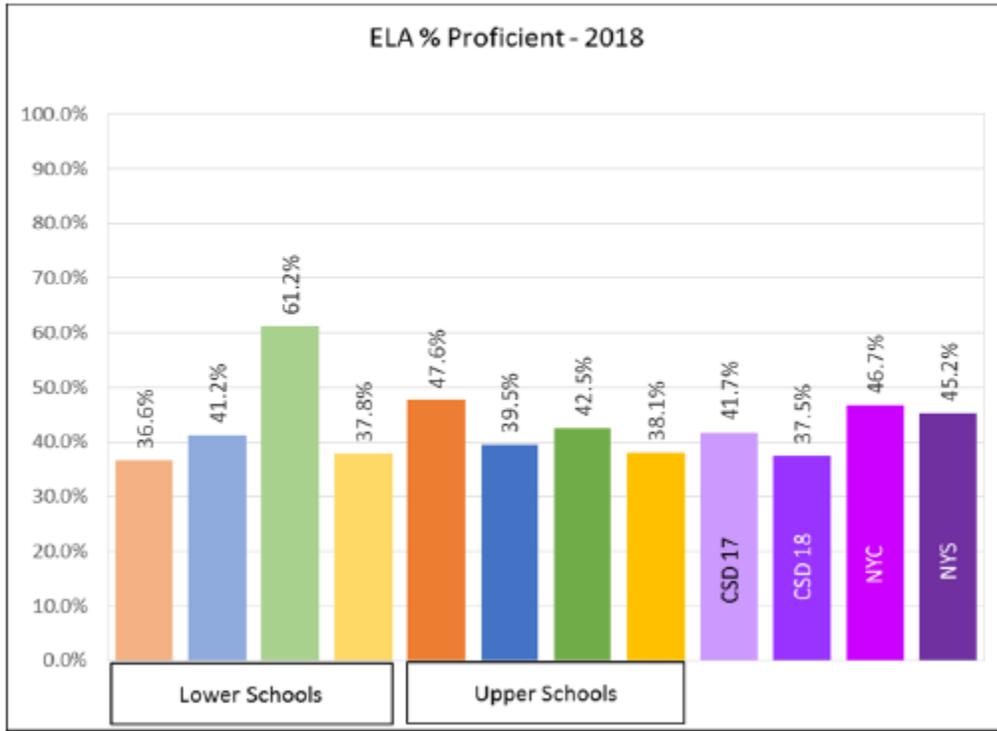


2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

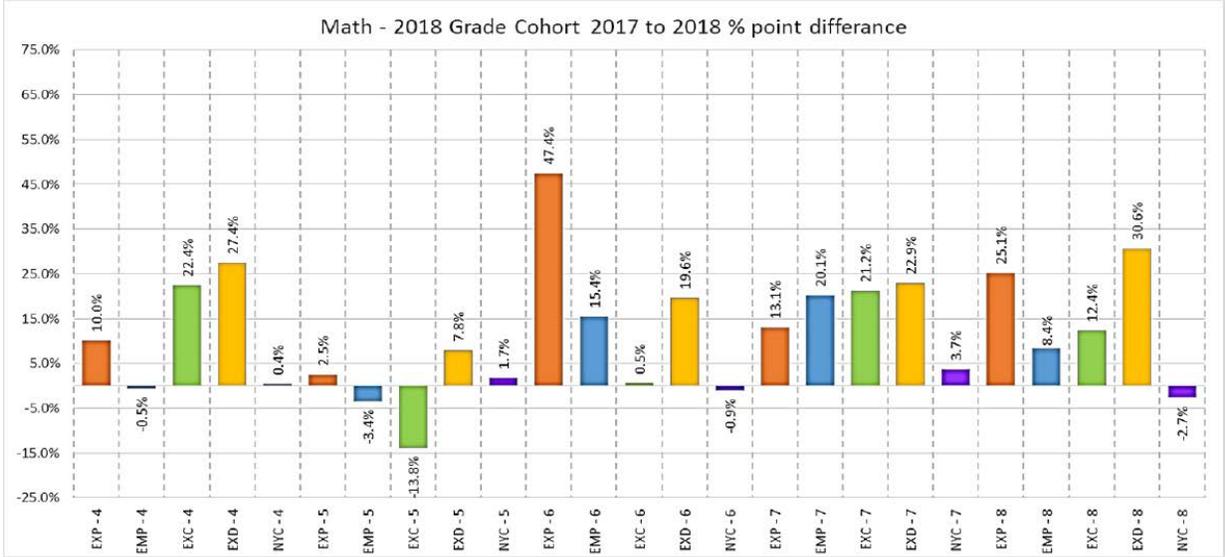
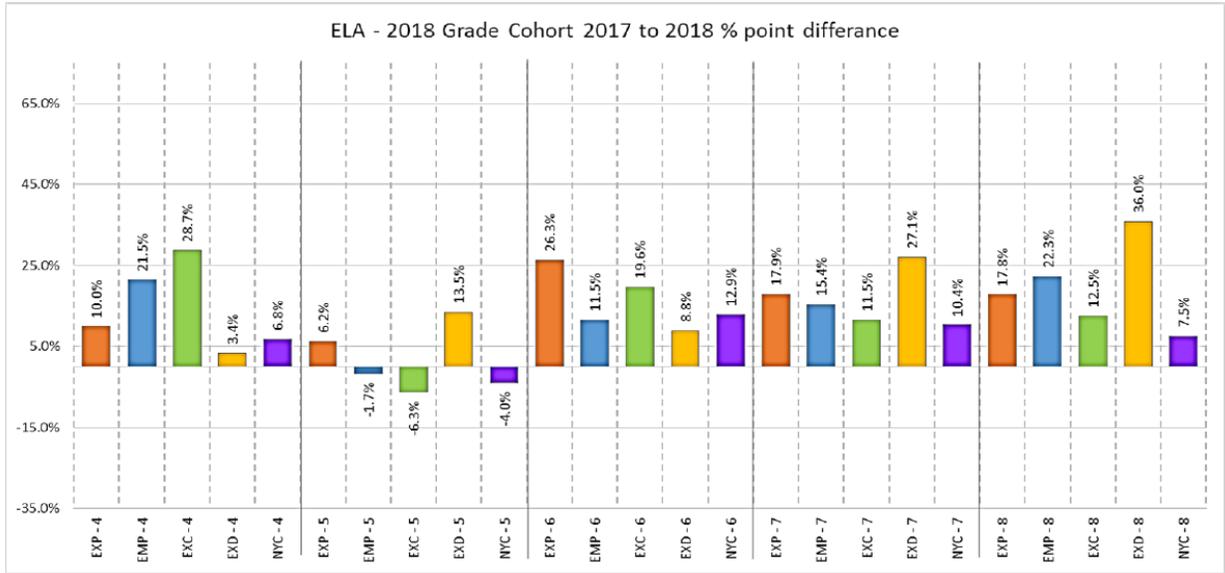
SPED - % Proficient and % at Level 1 over time

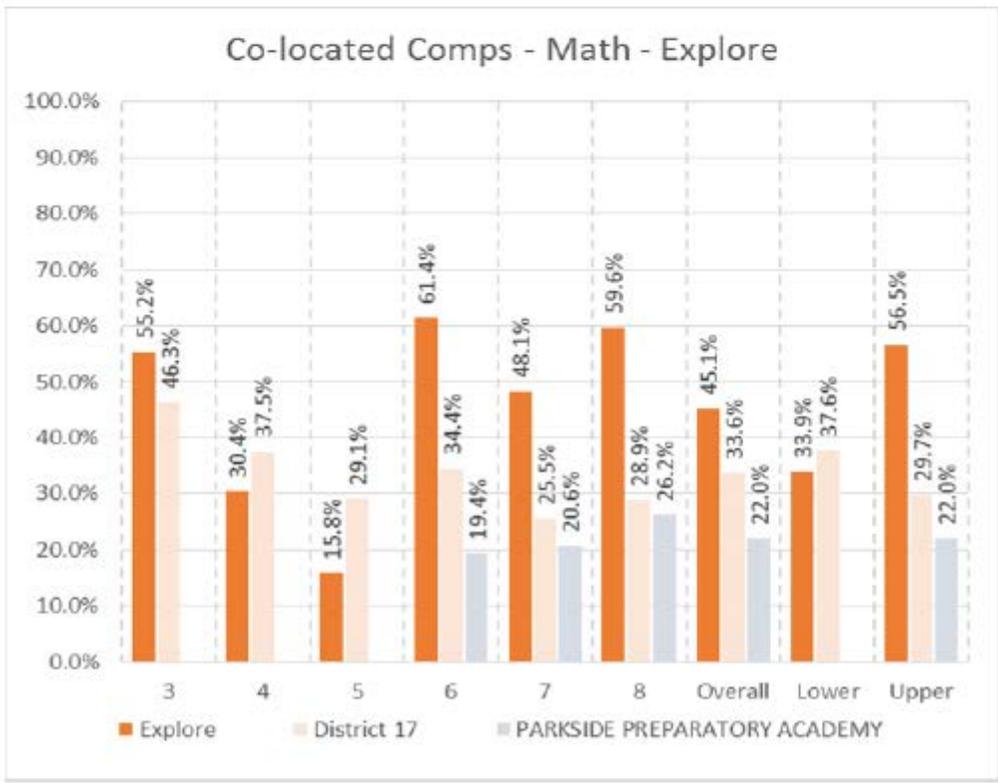
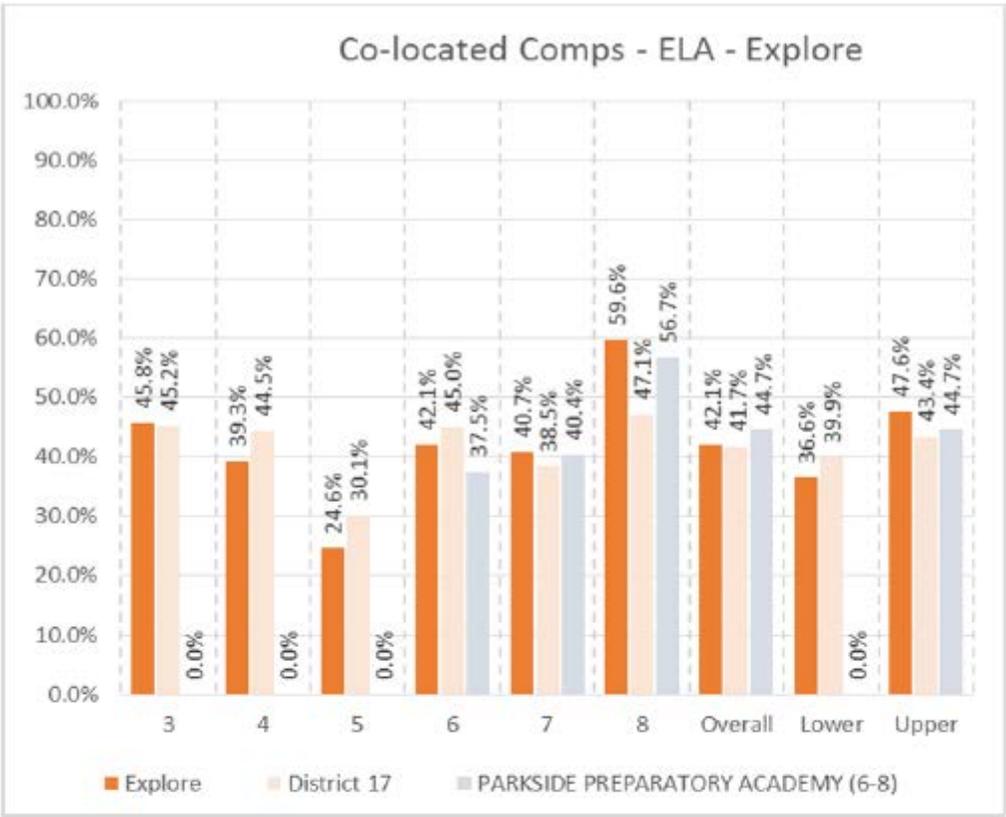


ELA and Math compared to District, City, State

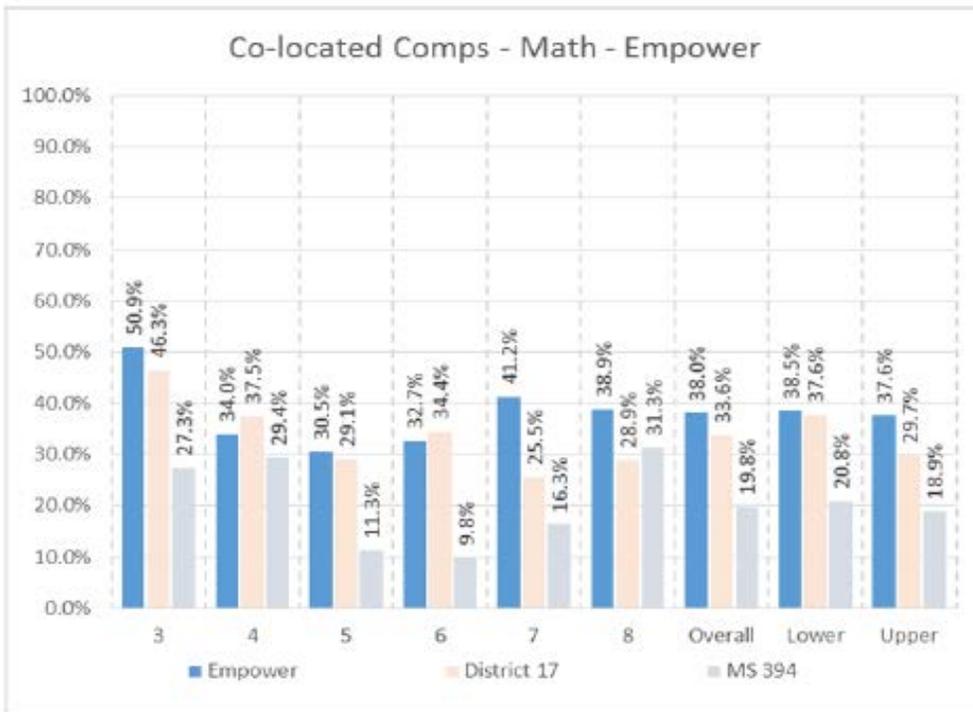
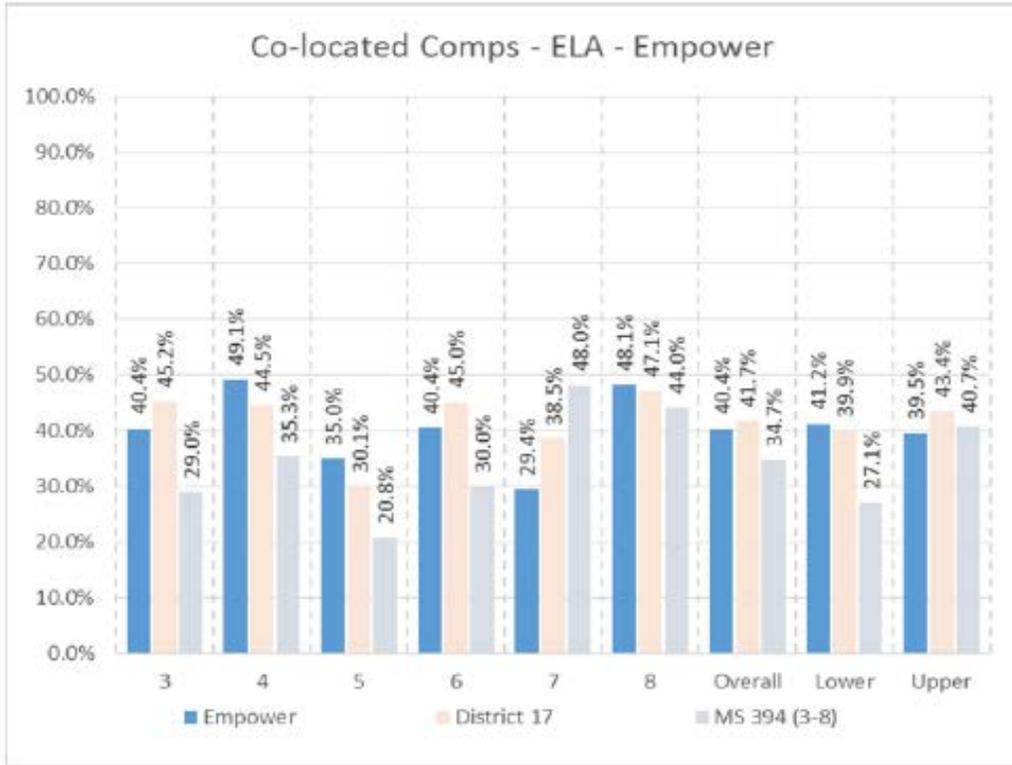


2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

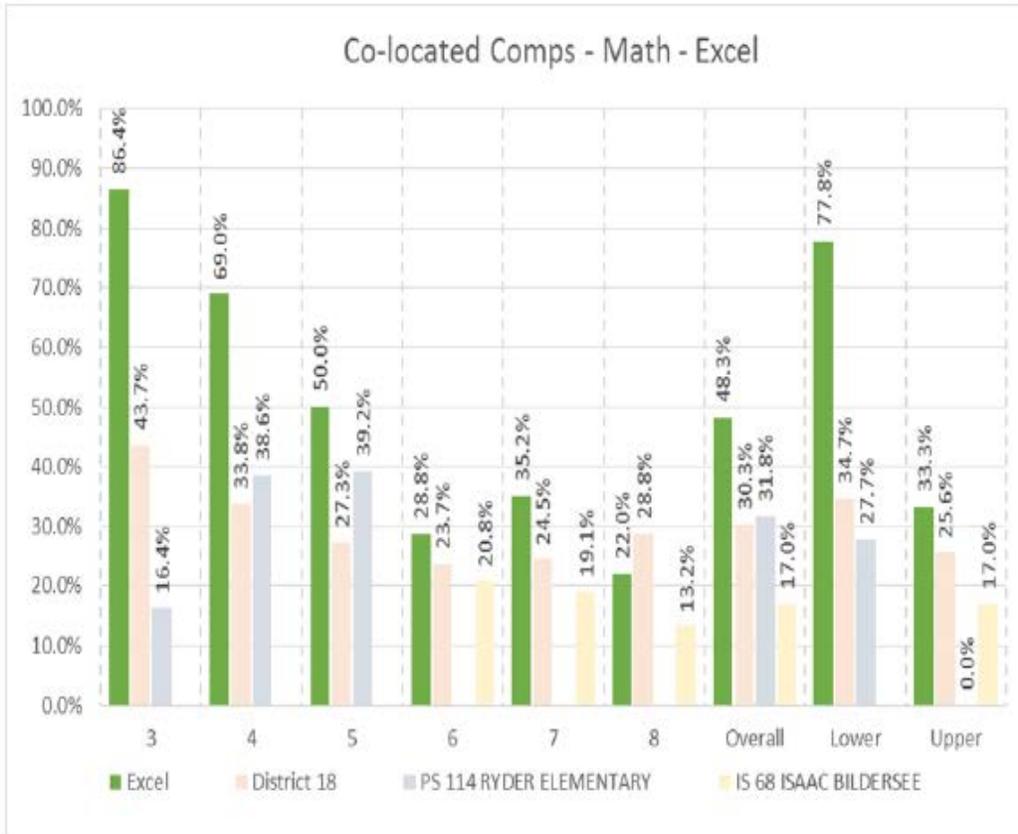
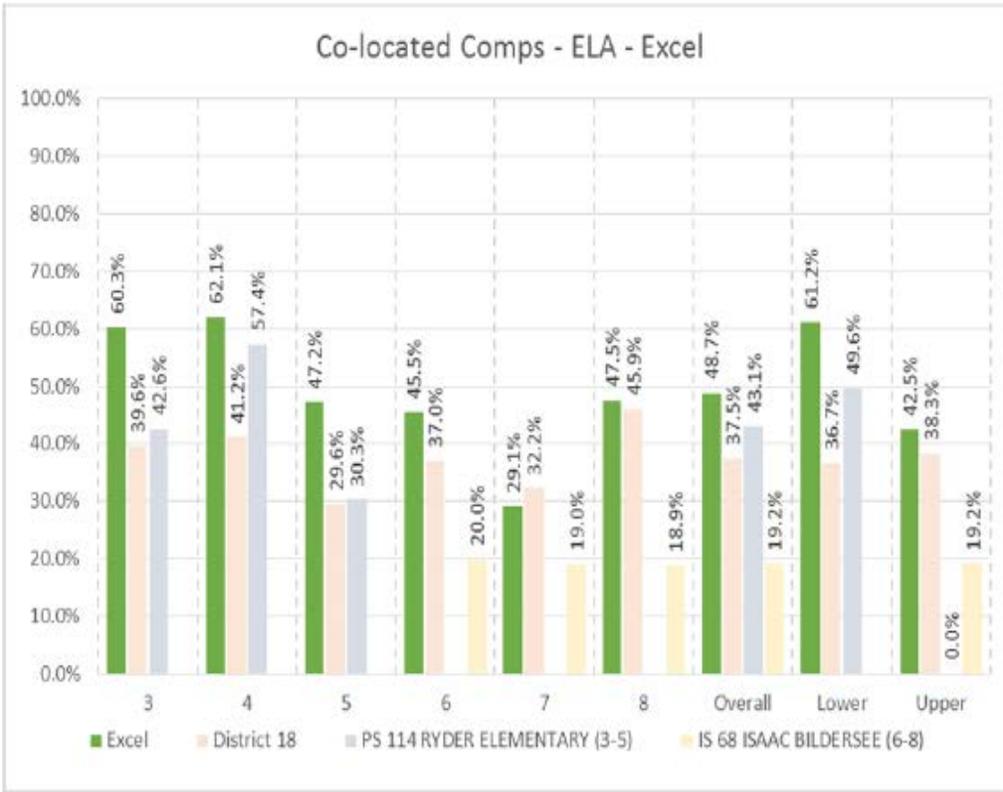




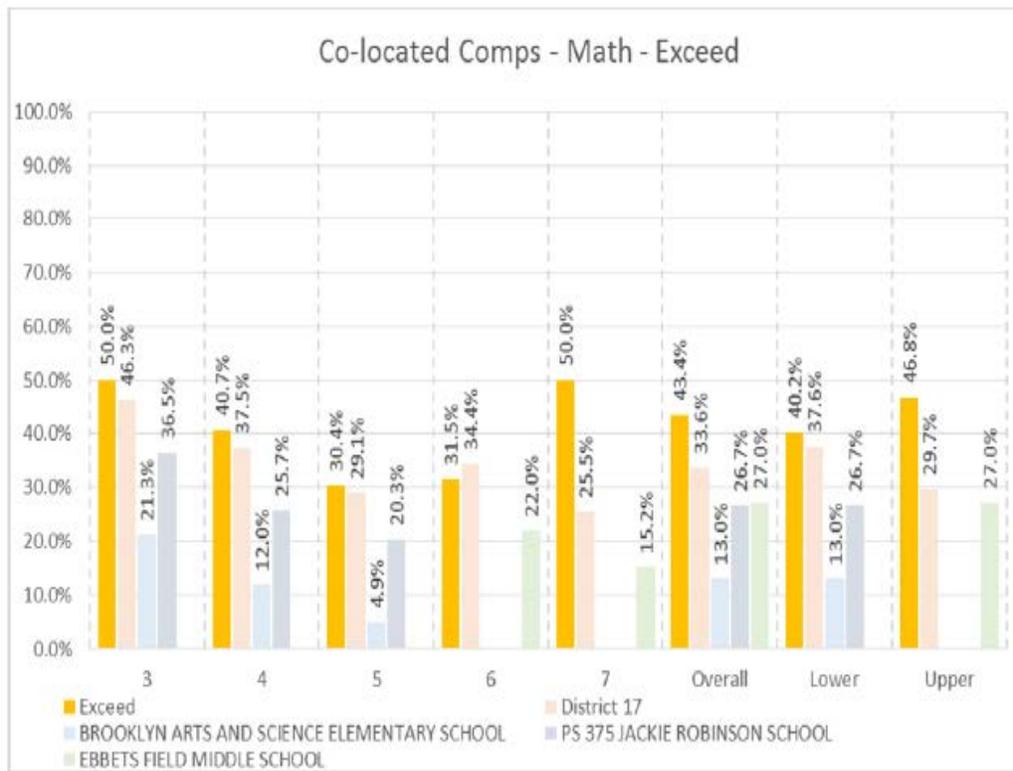
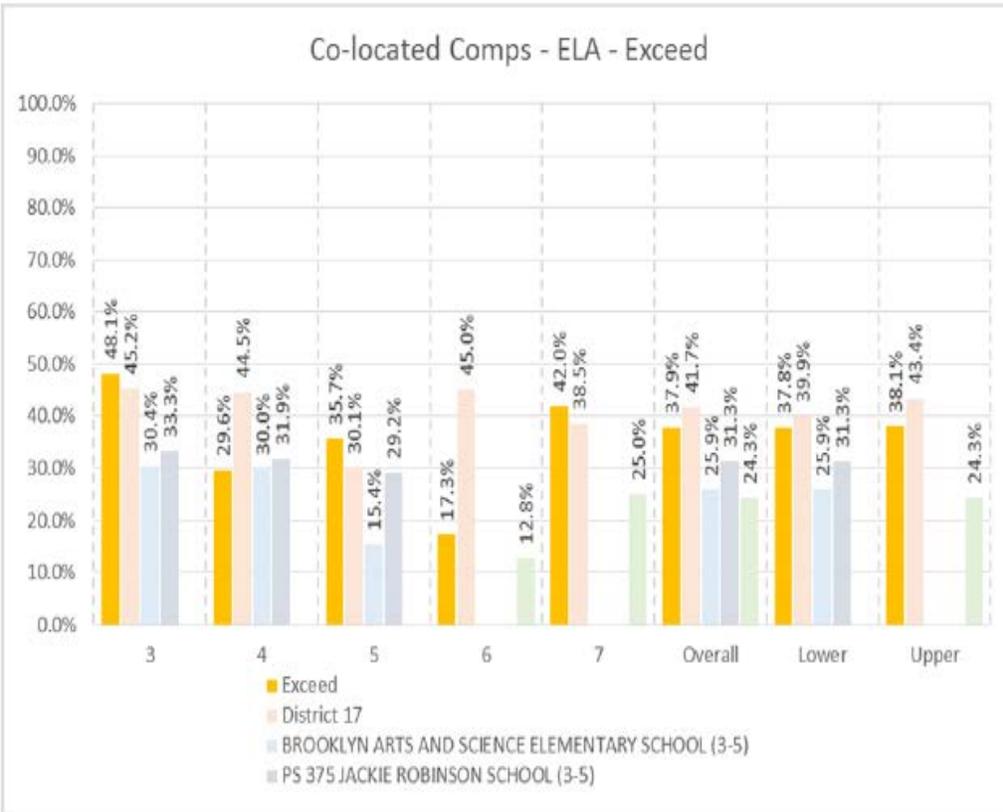
2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT



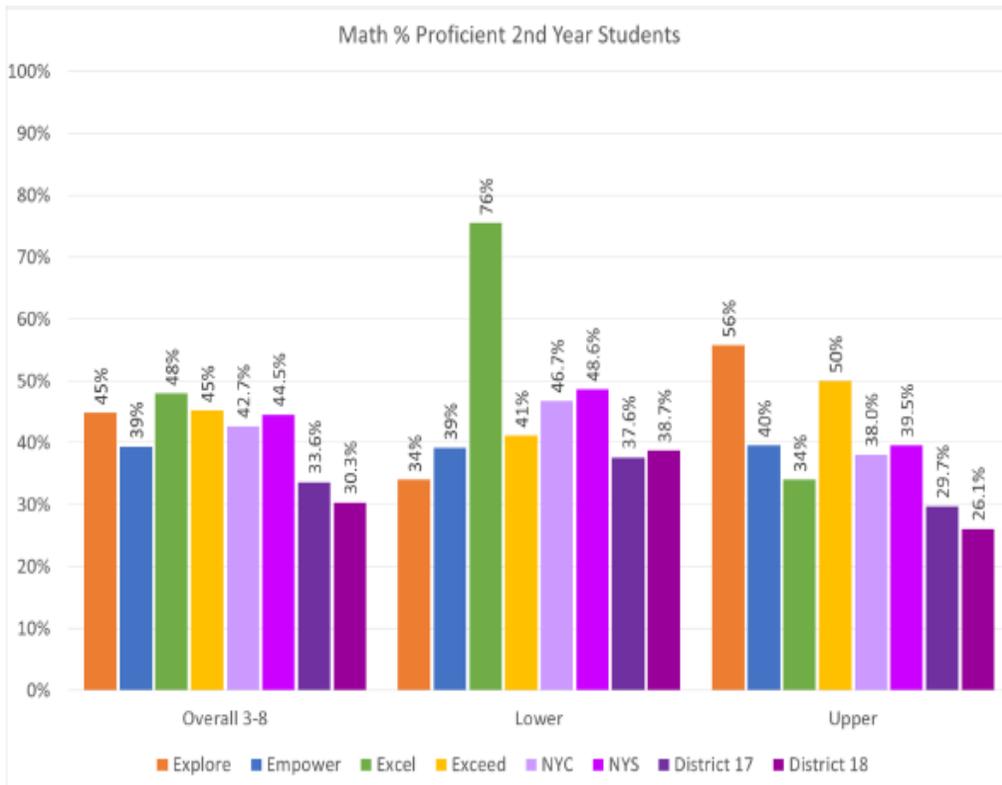
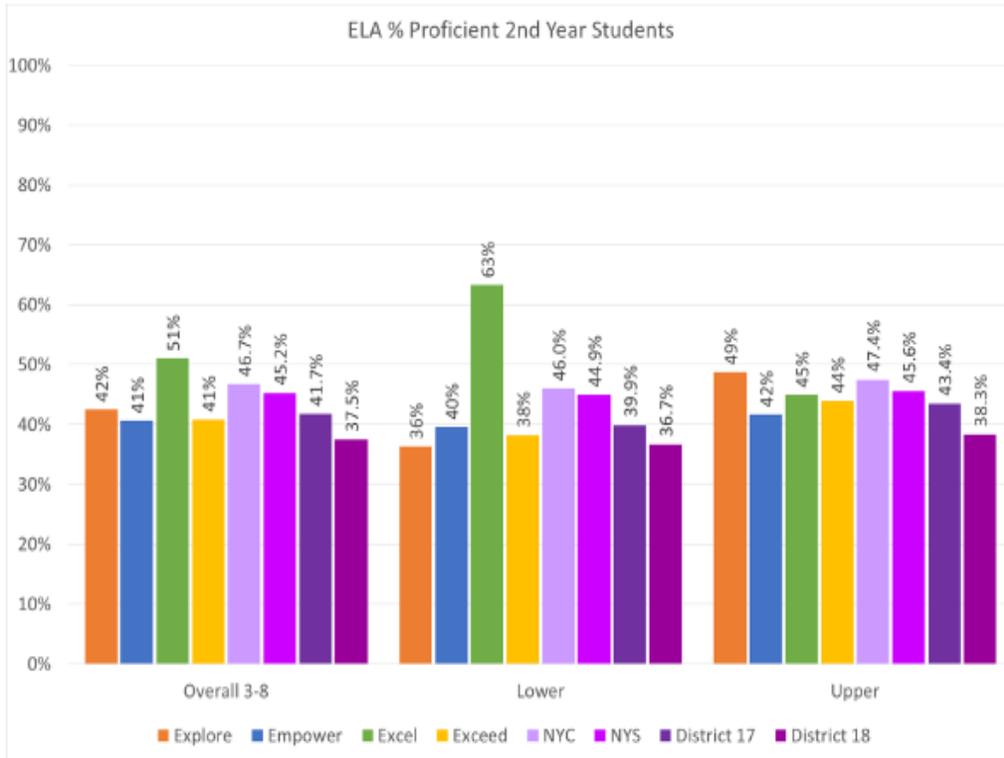
2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT



2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT



2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT



2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

