

**Achievement First Linden Charter
School**

**2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

Submitted to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on:

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2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Jonathan Pagan, Data and Policy Analyst, prepared this 2017-18 Accountability Progress Report on behalf of the school's board of trustees:

Trustee's Name	Board Position
Amy Arthur Samuels	Trustee/Member
Andy Hubbard	Trustee/Member
Angela Tucker	Parent Rep
Christopher Lynch	Trustee/Member
Deborah Shanley	Chair
Jon Atkeson	Treasurer
Judith Jenkins	Trustee/Member
Justin Cohen	Trustee/Member
L. Priscilla Hall	Trustee/Member
Lee Gelernt	Trustee/Member
Romy Coquillette	Trustee/Member

Amanda Hageman has served as the principal since 2014.

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The mission of Achievement First Linden Charter School is to provide all of our students with the academic and character skills they need to excel in top colleges, succeed in a competitive world, and serve as the next generation of leaders in their communities. We accomplish this by ensuring that every student attending the school receives a college preparatory education and is frequently assessed to ensure that he or she is making yearly progress towards academic goals.

Achievement First Linden opened in August 2014, and served grades K-4 in 2017-18.

Core elements of the Achievement First model that support our ambitious goal of closing the achievement gap by preparing our students for success include

- Unwavering focus on breakthrough student achievement
- Aggressive recruitment and retention of talent and diversity
- Consistent, proven, standards-based curriculum
- Disciplined, high-expectations achievement-oriented school culture
- Interim assessments and strategic use of data to drive instruction
- Principals with the power to lead as well as high-quality, focused training for leaders

Parents as partners

School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2013-14														
2014-15	91	87												178
2015-16	58	99	86											243
2016-17	86	64	95	87										332
2017-18	87	95	81	102	80									445

GOAL 1: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

All students will be proficient readers and writers of the English language.

BACKGROUND

We are deeply rooted in our commitment to ensuring that scholars find true joy in reading and writing, and that they leave our program with a deep appreciation for great books, new information, and diverse perspectives. Reading is both a means to college and career readiness as well as a worthy endeavor in itself. Writing is a means not only to express oneself clearly and concisely, but an opportunity to ignite a passion for self-discovery and creative expression.

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The achievement gap is both fueled and reinforced by a knowledge and vocabulary gap. We believe that building deep knowledge across a range of essential topics will ensure that students are stronger readers and can access complex, content-rich text. We select texts and writing assignments are selected intentionally to reinforce both *world* and *word* knowledge and to align with our history, science, music and art programs when appropriate.

We do not build knowledge for the sake of building knowledge. Our program aims to ensure that all students are curious citizens, intent on expanding their own knowledge of the world through asking questions, reading, writing and discussion. We aim to spark students' inquisitiveness and develop a sense of joy for building their knowledge. Students will seek new understandings and question their previous assumptions on a variety of topics, including those central to the human experience and current world landscape.

Our students must be voracious and critical readers of varied, complex literature and information text. All students will closely read rich text from diverse genres and perspectives to develop both their analytical skill and critical thinking. Texts are selected for their complexity and for their worthiness, ensuring students engage with revolutionary ideas, well-crafted arguments, and great literature. Our program is designed to help students make coherent, thoughtful arguments using sound and sufficient evidence, so that all students are able to speak and write in a manner that is insightful, persuasive and critical.

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 4th 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	103	0	0	0	0	103
4	81	0	0	0	0	81

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.

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5						
6						
7						
8						
All	184	0	0	0	0	184

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

The majority of Achievement First Linden students enrolled in at least their second year performed at least as well as the general student body.

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	54%	103	54%	93
4	57%	81	61%	69
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	55%	184	57%	162

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Achievement First Linden students enrolled in at least their second year performed better overall on the ELA state test compared to last year. It should be mentioned that significant changes to the state tests make year to year comparisons moot.

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			47%	74	54%	93
4					61%	69
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			47%	74	57%	162

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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.

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 English language arts test have scored at the partially proficient, 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 English language arts 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

The PL of Achievement First Linden students was higher than the MIP of 105.

English Language Arts 2017-18 Performance Index

Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
184	10%	35%	42%	13%

$$\begin{array}{rclclclcl}
 \text{PI} & = & 35\% & + & 42\% & + & 13\% & = & 90\% \\
 & & & & 42\% & + & 13\% & = & 55\% \\
 & & & & & + & (.5) * 13\% & = & 6.5\% \\
 & & & & & & \text{PI} & = & 151.5
 \end{array}$$

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 school district of comparison.

METHOD

A 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

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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.²

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Achievement First Linden met this goal.

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	54%	93	37%	615
4	61%	69	34%	613
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	57%	162	36%	1228

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Achievement First Linden outperformed the host district in 3rd and 4th grade performance.

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			47%	28%	54%	37%
4					61%	34%
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			47%	28%	57%	36%

² 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](#).

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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

Achievement First Linden achieved an Effect Size of 0.71, higher than the 0.3 target.

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	74%	88	48%	36%	12%	0.71
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
All	74%	88	48%	36%	12%	0.71

School’s Overall Comparative Performance:

Better than predicted

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

This is the first year that data for Achievement First Linden was available for this goal.

English Language Arts Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2014-15						
2015-16						
2016-17	3	74%	88	48%	36%	0.71

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

Mean Growth Percentile data is not available for Achievement First Linden due to Achievement First Linden not having any 4th grade students in 2016-17.

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.

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2016-17 English Language Arts 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	N/A	50.0

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Achievement First Linden did not have any 4th grade students in 2016-17 and thus does not have mean growth percentiles.

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

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Target
4				50.0
5				50.0
6				50.0
7				50.0
8				50.0
All		N/A	N/A	50.0

SUMMARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS GOAL

Achievement First Linden achieved all goals which it was eligible to achieve.

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.	Achieved
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.	Achieved
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.)	Achieved

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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.)	N/A
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ACTION PLAN

Achievement First Linden will continue its practice of regularly assessing students in ELA as students prepare for the annual state tests.

GOAL 2: MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

Students will demonstrate competency in the understanding and application of mathematical computation and problem solving.

BACKGROUND

For students to thrive in the world they will face after college, they must be able to make sense of the world through a mathematical lens. Therefore, learning mathematics requires more than learning facts and procedures for solving certain types of problems. A well-prepared student will develop proficiency and expertise in a number of mathematical practices that have longstanding importance in mathematics education.

In the mathematics program at Achievement First Linden, mathematical practices come to life through the shifts (focus, coherence, rigor) called for by the Common Core State Standards. We will continue to refine the components of and resources for the program, on our path to seeing these practices and shifts embodied by our students and driving instruction.

Tenets of Achievement First's Mathematics Program:

1. Conceptual Understanding: comprehension of mathematical concepts, operations, and relations
 - While developing conceptual understanding, students make meaning of mathematics and make connections across mathematical ideas which allows for rapid acquisition of new knowledge, greater retention, and ability to apply in novel contexts.
2. Procedural Fluency: skill in carrying out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently, and appropriately
 - The development of procedural fluency allows students to focus mental energy on flexibly approaching and thinking through problems, rather than the steps to perform an accurate calculation.
3. Strategic Competence & Adaptive Reasoning: ability to formulate, represent, and solve mathematical problems; capacity for logical thought, reflection, explanation, and justification.

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- The development of these habits of mind prepares students to solve mathematical problems that they may encounter throughout the rest of their academic and social lives.
4. **Productive Disposition:** habitual inclination to see mathematics as sensible, useful, and worthwhile, coupled with a belief in diligence and one's own efficacy.
 - Students approach challenging situations as opportunities to learn and mistakes made along the way as times for feedback and reflection, not representations of personal failure. This productive disposition is the hallmark of having a growth mindset as opposed to one that is fixed.
 5. **Problem Solving:** the umbrella under which all the opportunities to increase proficiency and expertise with the mathematical practices fall.
 - While students engage in problem solving they are making sense of problems, thinking strategically about concept and skill applications, planning and executing a viable approach, and reflecting on process and solutions.

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 4th 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	103	0	0	0	0	103
4	81	0	0	0	0	81
5						
6						
7						
8						
All	184	0	0	0	0	184

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.

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RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Achievement First Linden students enrolled in at least their second year performed slightly better compared to the general student body.

Performance on 2017-18 State Mathematics 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	72%	103	73%	93
4	69%	81	72%	69
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	71%	184	73%	162

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Achievement First Linden students enrolled in at least their second year performed similarly to last year's students. It should be mentioned that significant changes to the state tests make year to year comparisons moot.

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			70%	73	73%	93
4					72%	69
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			70%	73	73%	162

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, 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

Achievement First Linden's APL of 182 is higher than the target MIP of 105.

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
184	8%	21%	33%	38%

PI	=	21%	+	33%	+	38%	=	92%
				33%	+	38%	=	71%
					+	(.5)*38%	=	19%
						PI	=	182

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

Achievement First Linden outperformed the district in both tested grade levels.

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](#).

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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	73%	93	37%	612
4	72%	69	34%	1196
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	73%	162	32%	584

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Achievement First Linden has historically outperformed the district in all tested grade levels.

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			70%	29%	73%	37%
4					72%	34%
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			70%	29%	73%	32%

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) 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

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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

Achievement First Linden achieved an effect size of 0.34, slightly higher than the target effect size of 0.34.

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	74%	88	48%	41%	7%	0.34
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
All	74%	88	48%	41%	7%	0.34

School's Overall Comparative Performance:

Better than predicted

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

This is the first year that Achievement First Linden was assessed on this goal.

Mathematics Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2014-15						
2015-16						
2016-17	3	74%	88	48%	41%	0.34

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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

Mean Growth Percentile data is not available for Achievement First Linden due to Achievement First Linden not having any 4th grade students in 2016-17.

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	N/A	50.0

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Achievement First Linden did not have any 4th grade students in 2016-17 and thus does not have mean growth percentiles.

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.

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Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Target
4				50.0
5				50.0
6				50.0
7				50.0
8				50.0
All		N/A	N/A	50.0

SUMMARY OF THE MATHEMATICS GOAL

Achievement First Linden met all measures for which it was eligible.

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.	Achieved
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.	Achieved
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.)	Achieved
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.)	N/A

ACTION PLAN

Achievement First Linden will continue its practice of regularly assessing students in math as students prepare for the annual state tests.

GOAL 3: SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science

Students will demonstrate proficiency in the understanding and application of scientific principles.

BACKGROUND

Our program is designed to ensure that students develop the skills and understandings necessary to be prepared for introductory college level science courses and ultimately the careers of their choice, including (but not limited to) careers in science, engineering, and technology. Our program goes beyond the floor set by current external assessments to ensure that all performance expectations set forth in the Next Generation Science Standards are met. The rigor of content, concepts, and practices gradually increases in complexity from grade band to grade band, to ensure that our scholars have the knowledge and skills to choose careers in STEM.

The program is driven by the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 Science Education, which states: "To develop a thorough understanding of scientific explanations of the world, students need sustained opportunities to work with and develop the underlying ideas and to appreciate those ideas' interconnections over a period of years rather than weeks or months." To accomplish this goal, students build background knowledge and an understanding of science by deeply engaging with a focused set of core ideas and practices throughout their educational experience. Through this intensive approach, they will build expertise and use their expertise to make sense of new information or tackle problems.

The Next Generation Science Standards call for us to teach the practices or methods of science and engineering within our content and to focus on the many methods and practices of science and engineering rather than a single method. In order to support meaningful learning in science and engineering, our science program integrates core ideas of the discipline, science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and Common Core literacy and mathematics. In grades K-8, the program is based on integrated science scope & sequences produced by Achievement First, which draw on a variety of resources from educational publishers, external content experts, and internally designed materials.

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.

2017-18 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

96% of Achievement First Linden 4th graders achieved proficiency on the state science exam.

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	96%	68	N/A	N/A
8				
All	96%	68	N/A	N/A

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

This is the first year in which Achievement First Linden had 4th graders and thus historical comparisons are not yet possible.

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					96%	68
8						
All					96%	68

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

District data is not available.

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	96%	68	N/A	N/A
8				
All	96%	68	N/A	N/A

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

District data is not available.

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					96%	N/A
8						
All					96%	N/A

SUMMARY OF THE SCIENCE GOAL

Achievement First Linden achieved the goal for which data was available.

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.	N/A

ACTION PLAN

Achievement First Linden will continue its curriculum of scientific discovery and inquiry.

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

GOAL 4: ESSA

Goal 4: ESSA

The school will make Adequate Yearly Progress.

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

Achievement First Linden is in good standing.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Achievement First Linden has consistently been in good standing.

Accountability Status by Year

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

