

**Brooklyn East Collegiate
Charter School**

**2019-20 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

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2019-20 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN PROGRESS REPORT

Amanda Barile (Senior Associate Director of School Support, Uncommon NYC) prepared this 2019-2020 Accountability Progress Report on behalf of the school's Board of Trustees:

Trustee Name	Position on the Board
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Adwoa Bediako has served as the Principal of the school since 2019. Lisa Chen has served as the Director of Operations of the school since 2020.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The mission of Brooklyn East Collegiate (BEC) is to prepare each student for college. Brooklyn East Collegiate opened on August 31, 2010. The school opened with 5th grade and now serves 5th – 8th graders. The school successfully completed its ninth year of operation in June 2020.

Brooklyn East Collegiate's school design includes seven core components.

Focus on Literacy. Many of our students beginning their school career reading substantially below grade level. If a school does not address this dramatic and central issue immediately, students will be at a huge disadvantage in all subjects in high school and college. The ultimate academic success of BEC students, therefore, is tied to mastering this fundamental skill. In 2019-20, BEC provided explicit instruction in literacy skills and inculcated the reading habit through:

- Two hours and a half of daily literacy instruction;
- Requiring students to read reading level-appropriate books during the summer;
- Requiring graded, written work in every class, including math; and
- Requiring students to carry an independent reading book, checked out from our Library, to make better use of transition time in the hallways and other periods of downtime throughout the school day.
- STAR tested every student 3 times during the year to monitor progress and ensure that students were being challenged by independent reading books on their reading level

Target Curriculum Focused on Basic Skills. BEC does not use an off-the-shelf curriculum. Rather, BEC uses curriculum developed by our Curriculum Assessment Team (CAT) and Lead Lesson Planners (LLP). Our CAT and LLP develop curriculum directly from the New York State Learning Standards that ensures students master a core set of basic academic skills before they can master higher-level, abstract material.

Our Curriculum Assessment Team (CAT) and Lead Lesson Planners (LLP) pay particularly close attention to the topics, sequence, and performance standards outlined in the New York State standards. This ensures that students are mastering the same material as their peers throughout New York State.

At the same time, both teams adapt the subject topics and performance standards according to their professional expertise and from data-driven feedback from our teachers. CAT and our LLP create a comprehensive curriculum for their subject, saved on our network's share drive, with a year-long scope and sequence, individual unit plans, daily lesson plans, and assessment materials. BEC teachers will then save their lessons to our school's share drive with any edits they have adapted for their classroom. Not only does this provide the school with a record of individual course instruction but this also serves as a valuable curricular planning resource for returning and future teachers.

Assess Early and Often to Drive the Instructional Program. The most effective schools use assessment to diagnose student needs, measure instructional impact, and build a culture of continuous reflection and improvement. BEC administered internally-aligned Interim Assessments in 2019-2020. 2 Interim Assessments were given in History and Science, 4 Interim Assessments were given in Math, and 3 were given in ELA. These tests assessed ongoing student mastery of Math, Reading/Writing, Science and

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History skills and standards throughout the year and provided immediate data on individual student and class growth. BEC teachers, with the support of the Principal, used this data to identify standards mastered and standards in need of re-teaching so that lesson plans could be continuously adjusted. BEC also utilized the information to target content- and skills-driven tutoring and small-group instruction.

Our CAT team this year also began the use of weekly data collection through small assessments in both ELA and math. The data from these assessments was used by CAT and our LLPs to address gaps in content or skill that they could see trend across our Brooklyn Schools.

Make More Time. In order to provide students with a comprehensive, college preparatory education, Brooklyn East Collegiate has an extended school day and school year. For most students, the regular school day began at 7:15 AM and ended at 4:00 PM

With hour-long periods four days a week and 45 minute periods on Fridays to allow for significant staff meeting and professional development time, all students at Brooklyn East Collegiate received the following weekly:

- 7 periods of Mathematics
- 10 periods of English Language Arts (Reading and Writing)
- 5 periods of Independent Reading
- 5 periods of Social Studies
- 5 periods of Science
- 3 periods of Enrichment
- 1 period of Community Meeting

Brooklyn East Collegiate students extended their learning beyond the school day completing, on average, one-and-a-half to two hours of homework every night.

Emphasis on College. For too many at-risk students, college only exists in the abstract. For Brooklyn East Collegiate students, freshman year of college will be a natural extension of their educational experience at Brooklyn East Collegiate.

Brooklyn East Collegiate students began talking about college on the first day of school as their advisories are named after the alma maters of their teachers. Through informal conversations in advisory and in classes, students learned about the college application process, financial aid, dorm-life, selecting a major, and other important aspects of college survival.

BEC's school culture is based on its five core values: Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Discipline, and Enthusiasm. Brooklyn East Collegiate students are expected to consistently demonstrate these values wherever they find themselves and are rewarded with merits when they model these values well or go above and beyond. Students earning merits receive the opportunity to represent the school on merit trips and trade their merits at Merit Auctions for tangible rewards. Every other month, by participating in merit-earned trips either with a group of the top merit earners or one-on-one/two-on-one with staff members, merit winners develop the more abstract skills necessary for true college preparation (trying new activities, demonstrating leadership and professionalism, and participating in community service).

Provide Structure and Order. Students need a safe and orderly environment to be productive. In 2019-20, BEC created a calm, composed, and disciplined environment to maximize the amount of time on-task. Strategies included:

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- Strictly enforced school dress code;
- At the Middle Academy, a “paycheck” system was used that defined clear expectations and immediate responses to behavior. “Dollars” were given for positive behavior and “deductions” were taken for negative or inappropriate behavior;
- Deduction and detention system that defined clear expectations and immediate responses to negative or inappropriate behavior
- Opportunities at the end of every day in Afternoon Advisory to receive feedback from teachers and reflect

Insist on Family Involvement. BEC’s educational program is structured so that families must be involved in their child’s academic pursuits. In 2019-20, BEC families:

- picked up their child’s report card in person at the school two times; two additional report cards were emailed home to families in April and June due to COVID
- met with teachers and staff on multiple occasions to formally and informally discuss their child’s academic and behavioral performance;
- maintained an open line of communication with their child’s teachers through in-person meetings, weekly dashboards, semi-monthly progress reports, advisory calls and e-mails;
- were notified if their child earned detention;
- were asked to offer input on the school on mid-year and year-end surveys, grading the school;
- were offered the opportunity to participate in potlucks and watch their children perform in the talent show, Poetry Slam, and Performing Arts showcases;
- were invited to multiple social events with scholars, teachers and families focused on strengthening the involvement of parents in the school community

COVID-19 Closure

During the unexpected school closure due to COVID-19, BEC continued remote learning for all our students through June 2020. In grades 5-8, BEC provided a digitally driven instruction model to continue and further student learning and mastery of objectives of untaught materials. This was designed to be adaptive to families’ varied schedules. This consisted of instructional videos and supporting resources, student practice tasks/deliverables, teacher office hours and teacher/student check-in. The online platforms used were Newsela and Google Classroom. Below are the key components of weekly instruction.

- **Instructional Videos and Supporting Resources:**
 - Grades 5-8: An assigned team of staff across Uncommon created a series of instructional videos. The videos and resources were posted to a shared GoogleDrive, from which teachers then posted to their own Google Classrooms. Each instructional video included a supporting resource for students that guided note taking.
- **Student Practice Tasks/Deliverables:** In addition to tasks assigned by the instructional videos, students were also assigned work to practice mastery of previously learned material.

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- **Grades 5-8:** Each week, 1-2 tasks per content area were designated as a “deliverable,” which students submitted to their teacher by sending a picture/scan of their work via email/text.
- **Teacher Office Hours:** Teachers maintained daily office hours Monday through Thursday from 9am - 11am and 2pm - 4pm. During this time, students were able to ask questions and teachers could give feedback on work that was submitted to ensure students were understanding the content. Teachers could also schedule extra touchpoints with students who needed additional support over the course of the week.
- **Teacher/Student Check-In:** To maintain a personal touchpoint with individual students to ensure their well-being and to maintain community, all teachers scheduled 10 - 20-minute check-ins with students at least one time per week. The goals of the check-in included: checking in on student well-being, determining if students have any personal/family needs, providing feedback or answering questions about student work. (For grades 5-8 these check-ins were split by advisories or by content area(s) based on school leader discretion).
 - School leaders (Principals and Directors of Operation) also provided support as needed to ensure the academic progress and wellness of students. Additionally, if a teacher was struggling to reach a student and/or the student was not completing their work, a school leader followed up with the student and/or family to reset expectations and help determine solutions to any issues.

Families who reported not having access to wifi enabled devices received Chromebooks delivered directly to the student’s homes by the end of April.

School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2015-16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	86	85	77	66	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	314
2016-17	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	75	84	86	81	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	326
2017-18	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	73	86	77	77	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	313
2018-19	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	55	74	72	78	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	279
2019-2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28	53	63	40	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	184

GOAL 1: ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

ALL UNCOMMON NEW YORK CITY STUDENTS WILL BE PROFICIENT READERS AND WRITERS OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

BACKGROUND

The Brooklyn East Collegiate (BEC) English Language Arts curriculum reflects our understanding that literacy is the foundation upon which all future knowledge is built. We provide our scholars with 150 minutes of reading instruction each day. Our reading program overcomes our scholars' early literacy deficits by aggressively accelerating them through a coherent set of curricula that addresses five components of early literacy: phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension. The foundation of our reading curriculum lies in four complementary, research-based programs – Direct Instruction (Reading Mastery); Computer Reading Program; reading comprehension instruction based on the lesson plans of other Uncommon Schools teachers; guided reading instruction based on the STEP assessment, and explicit vocabulary instruction through Text Talk (designed by noted vocabulary expert Isabel Beck). We incorporate these five components of early literacy to provide a rigorous reading education.

Students receive 60 minutes of reading and writing instruction daily, independent reading on several days of the week, as well as a robust library with word incentives, including special t-shirts for students who reach up to 1,000,000 words. During independent reading, students can read an independent reading book on their level. Their levels are determined by the STAR Reading Assessment 4 times a year. The school library carried books ranging across all grade levels to support scholars' growth and knowledge. Scholars were given point goals every month to aid in increasing reading levels.

Brooklyn East Collegiate administers several different assessments throughout the year for various grade levels. Commercial assessments include the STEP Program (see "Summary of ELA Goal" section). School-created assessments include: bimonthly writing compositions and quarterly Interim Assessments. A full-time Learning Support Coordinator (Special Education Coordinator) helps the Principal develop and lead extensive and intensive professional development to ensure that Brooklyn East Collegiate's English Language Arts Goals are met.

Every year the school provides teachers with an intensive training program whereby we instruct teaching, student behavior management techniques, and strategies to employ in the classrooms and throughout the school. We achieve and maintain complete consistency in messaging, expectations, and responses to student behavior and academic standards throughout the school. Additionally, all staff meet one day each week to review the past week's progress and to finalize preparations for the coming week. Teachers are regularly observed teaching by the school leadership and receive constant feedback for improvement.

METHOD

BEC typically uses internally developed Interim Assessments and Final Examinations in addition to the criterion-referenced New York State exams in ELA. Given the cancellation of state testing in the 2019-2020 school year due to COVID-19 and the transition to remote learning in March, BEC administered 3 of the typical 6 internally-developed interval assessments for ELA. The interval assessments in ELA are

aligned to state standards and to the school's scope and sequence. Starting in August, teachers and administrators develop curricular strategy, unit plans, and daily lessons based upon the scope and sequence. At the close of each unit, an assessment is administered, graded, and data shared so that teachers and administrators can develop action plans based on objective, standards-driven data. The principal and leadership team work closely with teachers at every step of this process, giving feedback on daily lesson plans, curriculum, action plans, and the implementation of these plans.

After the interval assessments were administered, teachers graded each exam and entered individual performance data into a shared template for detailed test analysis. With the individual student, whole class, and whole grade data, teachers analyzed the data and developed strategic plans to re-teach specific standards to individuals, small groups, and classes. The school also utilized the information to target content- and skills-driven tutoring throughout the day in school from January to April (due to closure for COVID).

After the transition to remote learning in March, students used Google Classroom for ELA instruction. This consisted of watching pre-recorded videos and reading whole-class novels at the middle school level with daily deliverables. Teachers held office hours and tutored small groups of students. Students with support services continued to receive specialized instruction.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Based on data from the Interim Assessments administered in 2019-2020, we are making progress towards our goals. At Brooklyn East Collegiate 13.4% of students achieved proficiency or advanced status on their first ELA Interim assessment and 25.3% of students achieved proficiency or advanced status on their second ELA Interim assessment. We will continue to work towards a higher percentage of students meeting this metric for School Year 2020-2021.

SUMMARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS GOAL

Brooklyn East Collegiate is making progress towards meeting the ELA goal for the 2019-2020 school year based on the interim assessments that were administered in Grades 5-8.

ACTION PLAN

Literacy is the foundation on which all other learning rests, and accordingly, English Language Arts (ELA) instruction lies at the core of BEC's curriculum. BEC has come close to meeting most of its ELA accountability goals over this past year, has demonstrated progress towards all remaining goals, and is continuously improving upon its literacy instruction. BEC realizes that, similar to most urban public schools, this is still an area for growth.

Based on historical accountability progress performance, Brooklyn East Collegiate urgently made adjustments to improve outcomes for students since last year. This year we intend to strengthen skills as well as systems for responding to data. Our Dean of Curriculum and Instruction will hold weekly practice groups with their newest teachers to give feedback and improve instruction provided to students, Instructional Leaders will review teacher lesson plans weekly and provided feedback before implementation, and leaders will increase the amount of real time feedback given to teachers during the school day. Additionally, our instructional leadership along with the Uncommon Curriculum and Development team will lead professional development sessions in addition to Weekly Data Meetings and Creating Response to Data Lessons. As a result, we intend to see an increase in student performance on the NYS ELA exam for this coming year and make more progress toward our absolute, growth and

comparative ELA accountability goals and measures for school year 2020-2021.

GOAL 2: MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE COMPETENCY IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF MATHEMATICAL COMPUTATION AND PROBLEM SOLVING.

BACKGROUND

We believe our students should be able to compute numbers quickly and accurately, apply appropriate math procedures in single- and multi-step problems, and speak and write fluently and clearly about math problem solving and procedures, using accurate mathematical vocabulary. For this reason, our students take at least 90 minutes of math per day, during which students review concepts for procedural fluency, explore conceptual understanding of old and new content through guided instruction and partner work, and engage in rigorous problem solving requiring the application of skills and the extension of learned content. Basically, we double the time dedicated to math instruction each day to ensure that students can compute and problem solve.

METHOD

Brooklyn East Collegiate typically uses data from the following assessments to ensure student proficiency in Mathematics:

- Criterion-referenced New York State exams in Mathematics
- Internally developed Interim Assessments in Mathematics
- Internally developed Final Examination in Mathematics

During the 19-20 academic year, Brooklyn East Collegiate was only able to use Internally developed Interim Assessments in Mathematics due to the COVID pandemic and shift to remote learning in mid-March. Brooklyn East Collegiate administered 2 internally developed and aligned Interim Assessments. These assessments were created to reflect the school's scope and sequence in Math, and to mirror the style and scope of the New York State Math exams. The assessments focused primarily on the most recently covered standards, with a smaller focus on cumulative skills and standards covered in previous units.

After the tests were administered, teachers graded each exam and entered individual performance data into a shared template for detailed test analysis. With the individual student, whole class, and whole grade data, teachers analyzed the data and developed strategic plans to re-teach specific standards to individuals, small groups, and classes. Brooklyn East Collegiate also utilized the information to target content- and skills-driven tutoring throughout the day in school from January to April (due to closure for COVID).

During remote learning starting in mid-March 2020 through mid-June 2020, Brooklyn East Collegiate continued to have consistent Math instruction where scholars in Grades 5-8 completed asynchronous learning by watching a video pre-recorded by one of our veteran Math teachers and completing a written task generating a work product at least 2 days per week. Teachers provided weekly feedback on submitted written assignments. Scholars also were able to attend optional live remote instruction. Live

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remote instruction was data driven based on trends from the previous week's lesson. Teachers determined the objective and tailored the lesson based on trends from the written assignments submitted.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

Based on data from the Interim Assessments administered in 2019-2020, we are making progress towards our goals. At Brooklyn East Collegiate 22.7% of students achieved proficiency or advanced status on their first Interim assessment and 22.9% of students achieved proficiency or advanced status on their second Interim assessment. We will continue to work towards a higher percentage of students meeting this metric for School Year 2020-2021.

Usually Brooklyn East Collegiate's 8th grade cohort completes the Algebra 1 Regents exam in June of each year. Due to COVID and the shift to remote learning in March, we do not have Algebra 1 Regents data for the 2019-2020 school year.

SUMMARY OF THE MATHEMATICS GOAL

In its ninth year, Brooklyn East Collegiate is working towards the goal of having all tested students score proficient on their most recent Interim Assessment.

ACTION PLAN

Brooklyn East Collegiate is working towards meeting its math accountability goals for school year 2019-2020 and has demonstrated progress towards remaining goals.

Over the course of the past school year Uncommon Schools has made continuous changes to its program in order to ensure that its curriculum, schedule, and instruction best support student learning in math. Changes include: switching from Saxon math to a Math Investigations-based curriculum to better align to NYS Learning Standards rooted in conceptual math; revising math lessons so that student activities more closely align to the objective; revising scope and sequences to ensure that fact practices in grades 5-7 are focused solely on reviewing difficult-to-master material throughout the school year; revising quarterly Interim Assessments to ensure that each NYS Learning Standard is taught, assessed and ultimately mastered; and, finally, prioritizing differentiated teacher development.

As mentioned before, we continue to strive for our students to get individualized feedback in both Math and ELA. We know with real-time feedback and continued independent practice, students will be able to refine their skills in both Math and ELA. During Remote and Hybrid learning, we strive to continue to provide both real-time feedback and consistent feedback on written work submissions via teacher-led sessions on Zoom and comprehensive feedback on graded assignments. As a network, we plan to continue to implement a small group instruction into the day for four months starting in January and ending in May. There, students and staff emphasize the importance of preparation and practice with alternating blocks of ELA & Math Monday – Thursday, giving real-time feedback to students on their work throughout the block. Our Curriculum Assessment Team collect this data and work with our principals and Assistant Superintendents to implement data-driven worksheets based on where our students needed the most practice.

GOAL 3: SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science

STUDENTS WILL DEMONSTRATE PROFICIENCY IN THE UNDERSTANDING AND APPLICATION OF SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES.

BACKGROUND

Brooklyn East Collegiate's Science curriculum is aligned to the NY State standards and includes the use of both authentic text such as articles, or passages from non-fiction texts, and the use of text books in class to ensure that students are reading to learn new material presented.

The science curriculum at BEC has been designed to provide a solid foundation for students in the essential understandings of middle science as outlined in the New York State standards. BEC continues to partner with Uncommon Schools to procure externally-developed, Common Core-aligned curriculum and assessments, which are based on the successful outcomes of the highest performing schools in the network. Lesson plans associated multi-media resource materials and assessments are aligned to NYS standards. The curricula are designed with minute-by-minute plans for teachers to execute in their classrooms. The plans include a variety of activities: hands-on experiments, reading and responding to complex non-fiction texts, classroom discussion and debate of key issues, vocabulary instruction, and student presentations.

Science instruction consistently reinforced both math and reading skills, and our science teachers frequently worked closely with both our Math and English Language Arts teachers to ensure that common approaches and language were used to reinforce cross-curricular content. For example, during the Scientific Method and Measurement unit, students worked with units of measurement, tools of measurement, and conversions between units of measure, reinforcing important math skills.

In terms of supporting literacy, professional development time is dedicated to determining how to best expose students to nonfiction texts during science class each week and how to encourage them to access and use scientific texts for their own learning and study. This exposure to nonfiction provided an important opportunity for students to practice and continue to develop their reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

During the shift to fully remote learning in March 2020, students in Grades 5-8 school continued Science instruction 5 days a week in which the students watched videos created by veteran Science teachers from Uncommon and completed an assigned science task.

METHOD

The school administered two internal interim Science assessments in grades 5-8 prior to the switch to remote learning in March 2020.

RESULTS AND EVALUATION

BEC students took 2 rounds of internal Interim Assessments that were compared to other Uncommon Schools in our network. 66.7% passed the first Science Interim Assessment in grade 8 and 70% passed the second Science Interim Assessment in grade 8.

For 8th grade, the goal was met.

SUMMARY OF THE K-8 SCIENCE GOAL

Brooklyn East Collegiate did achieve their Science goals for the 2019-2020 school year based on internal Interim Assessments.

ACTION PLAN

While BEC has been pleased with its 8th grade science results in the past, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement.

In 2020-21, Brooklyn East Collegiate will continue to employ our internally created science programs and extensive hands-on experiments to move students towards competency in the understanding and application of Science.

Brooklyn East Collegiate remains strongly committed to ensuring that our scholars develop the core knowledge that will allow them to become critical thinkers in all areas and will support their development in reading comprehension. We are equally committed to meeting our Accountability Plan goals in Science. BEC plans to do the following things to ensure that students continue to progress in this measure:

1. Implement the Reading Taxonomy and Science Taxonomy techniques in all Science classes to continue to improve teaching practices in these classes
2. Continue to prepare our 8th grade students for the Living Environment Regents in June
3. Continue to use fifth and sixth grade science curriculum to provide students with the essential understandings and skills that will prepare them for more in-depth study of Chemistry, Biology, and Physics during seventh and eighth grade
4. Encourage collaboration between science and literacy teachers so that comprehension and vocabulary strategies taught in reading class are incorporated into science class during non-fiction lessons. Science teachers will be responsible for teaching all textbook features through science instruction. These skills will then be reinforced by the reading teacher while reading non-fiction texts. In addition, Science and Writing teachers will continue to collaborate to give students practice in research and non-fiction writing.
5. Provide professional development and common planning time dedicated to collaboration between science, math, and literacy teachers to ensure that the science curriculum continues to reinforce essential math and reading comprehension skills. The class schedule was created with these periods in mind. Each of these teachers has at least one period a week that they can meet with their counterpart to discuss these skills. As mentioned previously we will also be using our PD time as a staff to focus on this. Observations, lesson review and video will be used to help provide feedback to our teachers on this topic.

GOAL 4: ESSA

Goal 4: ESSA

THE SCHOOL WILL REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING UNDER THE STATE'S ESSA ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.

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.

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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

The 2019-20 ESSA Goal remains unchanged due to the Covid-19 school closure. The 2019-20 accountability status is based on 2018-19 results. Brooklyn East Collegiate received a "Good Standing" status under ESSA in 2018-2019. The school has diligently worked to meet each ESSA requirement and comply with all stated guidelines for testing and we will maintain this going forward.

Accountability Status by Year

Year	Status
2016-17	Good Standing
2017-18	Good Standing
2018-19	Good Standing