

**ACHIEVEMENT FIRST
BROWNSVILLE
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**2013-14 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

Submitted to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on:

September 15, 2014

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Tony Siddall, Senior Director, Growth Strategy, prepared this 2013-14 Accountability Progress Report on behalf of the school’s board of trustees :

| Trustee’s Name | Board Position |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kelly Wachowicz | Board Chair |
| Chrystal Stokes Williams | Treasurer |
| Amy Arthur Samuels | Trustee |
| Julie Marlette | Trustee |
| Lee Gelernt | Trustee |
| Denise Ashley | Parent Representative |
| Max Polaner | AF Representative |

Michelle Kagan has served as the school leader since 2011.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of Achievement First Brownsville 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 she or he is making yearly progress made towards academic goals.

Achievement First Brownsville charter school opened in August 2008, and in 2013-2014 served grades K-6. The student body is 91% Black, 8% Latino, and 1% White. 87% of students are eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch. Students are selected by a blind lottery process.

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 & strategic use of data to drive instruction
- Principals with the power to lead and 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 |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|----|----|----|-------|
| 2010-11 | 87 | 83 | 89 | 79 | | | | | | | | | | 338 |
| 2011-12 | 93 | 84 | 80 | 84 | 74 | | | | | | | | | 419 |
| 2012-13 | 92 | 86 | 91 | 76 | 78 | 97 | | | | | | | | 520 |
| 2013-14 | 88 | 93 | 90 | 86 | 66 | 90 | 92 | | | | | | | 605 |

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 self-discovery and creative expression.

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 & 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 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 assessment to students in 3 through 6 grade in April 2014. 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.

**2013-14 State English Language Arts Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

| Grade | Total Tested | Not Tested ¹ | | | Total Enrolled |
|-------|--------------|-------------------------|-----|--------|----------------|
| | | IEP | ELL | Absent | |
| 3 | 85 | | | | 85 |
| 4 | 65 | | | | 65 |
| 5 | 87 | | | 2 | 89 |
| 6 | 88 | | | 1 | 88 |
| 7 | N/A | | | | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | | | | N/A |
| All | 325 | | | 3 | 328 |

Results

The results of the ELA exam are below. Proficiency rates ranged from 28% to 42%.

**Performance on 2013-14 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 | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 3 | 28% | 85 | 29% | 81 |
| 4 | 34% | 65 | 34% | 65 |
| 5 | 37% | 87 | 43% | 65 |
| 6 | 42% | 88 | 45% | 78 |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 35% | 325 | 37% | 289 |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville did not achieve the 75% proficient target.

Additional Evidence

Year to year trends are of limited explanatory value because the tests, the underlying standards and the cut scores have changed significantly over the past three years. These results are summarized below.

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.

English Language Arts Performance by Grade Level and School Year

| Grade | Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency | | | | | |
|-------|--|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
| | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 3 | 70% | 84 | 33% | 72 | 29% | 81 |
| 4 | 76% | 74 | 43% | 76 | 34% | 65 |
| 5 | N/A | N/A | 44% | 59 | 43% | 65 |
| 6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 45% | 78 |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 73% | 158 | 40% | 207 | 37% | 289 |

Goal 1: Absolute Measure

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

Method

The federal No Child Left Behind law holds schools accountable for making annual yearly progress towards enabling all students to be proficient. As a result, the state sets an AMO each year to determine if schools are making satisfactory progress toward the goal of proficiency in the state’s learning standards in English language arts. To achieve this measure, all tested students must have a Performance Level Index (PLI) value that equals or exceeds the 2013-14 English language arts AMO of 89. The PLI is calculated by adding the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 2 through 4 with the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 3 and 4. Thus, the highest possible PLI is 200.²

Results

The PLI was 118, exceeding the AMO target of 89.

English Language Arts 2013-14 Performance Level Index (PLI)

| Number in Cohort | Percent of Students at Each Performance Level | | | |
|------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| | 18% | 46% | 29% | 7% |

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc}
 \text{PI} & = & 46 & + & 29 & + & 7 & = & 82 \\
 & & & & 29 & + & 7 & = & 36 \\
 & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 118
 \end{array}$$

² In contrast to SED’s Performance Index, the PLI does not account for year-to-year growth toward proficiency.

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this goal.

Goal 1: Comparative Measure

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

Method

A school compares tested students enrolled in at least their second year to all tested students in the surrounding public school district. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students in at least their second year at the school and the total result for all students at the corresponding grades in the school district.³

Results

AF Brownsville more than doubled the proficiency rate of the local district at each grade level, and more than tripled the rate proficiency rate in grades 5 and 6.

**2013-14 State English Language Arts 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 | |
| | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 3 | 29% | 81 | 13% | 769 |
| 4 | 34% | 65 | 12% | 894 |
| 5 | 43% | 65 | 9% | 730 |
| 6 | 45% | 78 | 11% | 1003 |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 37% | 289 | 11% | 3396 |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this target.

Additional Evidence

AF Brownsville has consistently and dramatically outperformed the sending district average at each grade level over the past three years.

³ Schools can acquire these data when the New York State Education Department releases its Access 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](#).

**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 Who Are at Proficiency Compared to Local District Students | | | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
| | Charter School | Local District | Charter School | Local District | Charter School | Local District |
| 3 | 70% | 29% | 33% | 11% | 29% | 13% |
| 4 | 76% | 31% | 76% | 11% | 34% | 12% |
| 5 | N/A | N/A | 59% | 10% | 43% | 9% |
| 6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 45% | 11% |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 78% | 30% | 40% | 10% | 37% | 11% |

Goal 1: Comparative Measure

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

Method

The Charter Schools Institute conducts a Comparative Performance Analysis, which compares the school’s performance to demographically similar public schools state-wide. 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 economically disadvantaged percentage. The difference between the schools’ 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 small 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 2013-14 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2012-13 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

Results

The results are summarized in the table below.

2012-13 English Language Arts Comparative Performance by Grade Level

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

| Grade | Percent Economically Disadvantaged | Number Tested | Percent of Students at Levels 3&4 | | Difference between Actual and Predicted | Effect Size | |
|-------|------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| | | | Actual | Predicted | | | |
| 3 | | 74 | 32.5 | 20.5 | 12.0 | 0.97 | |
| 4 | | 76 | 43.4 | 20.6 | 22.8 | 1.88 | |
| 5 | | 90 | 35.6 | 19.9 | 15.7 | 1.29 | |
| 6 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | |
| All | | 84% | 240 | 37.1 | 20.3 | 16.8 | 1.37 |

| |
|--|
| School's Overall Comparative Performance: |
| <i>Higher than expected to a large degree.</i> |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville met this goal, with performance that was “higher than expected to a large degree.”

Additional Evidence

AF Brownsville students have consistently performed significantly higher than their economically comparable peers statewide, as summarized in the table below.

English Language Arts Comparative Performance by School Year

| School Year | Grades | Percent Eligible for Free Lunch | Number Tested | Actual | Predicted | Effect Size |
|-------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| 2010-11 | 3 | 67% | 79 | 65.8 | 45.4 | 1.28 |
| 2011-12 | 3-4 | 71% | 158 | 72.8 | 45.5 | 1.72 |
| 2012-13 | 3-5 | 84% | 240 | 37.1 | 20.3 | 1.37 |

Goal 1: Growth Measure⁵

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

Method

This 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 2013-14 and also

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

have a state exam score from 2012-13 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2012-13 score are ranked by their 2013-14 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 statewide median, it must have a mean growth percentile greater than 50.

Results

The median growth percentile for each grade is presented below.

2013-14 English Language Arts Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

| Grade | Mean Growth Percentile | |
|-------|------------------------|------------------|
| | School | Statewide Median |
| 4 | 53 | 50.0 |
| 5 | 61 | 50.0 |
| 6 | 63 | 50.0 |
| 7 | N/A | 50.0 |
| 8 | N/A | 50.0 |
| All | <u>59</u> | 50.0 |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this goal, as each grade had a mean growth percentile higher than 50.

Additional Evidence

This is the first year that AF Brownsville has had a mean growth percentile calculated.

Summary of the English Language Arts Goal

AF Brownsville achieved all of the ELA goals, with the exception of 75% proficient.

| 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 Performance Level Index (PLI) on the state English language arts exam will meet that year's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system. | 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 local school district. | 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 | Achieved |

| | | |
|--------|--|----------|
| | regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. (Using 2012-13 school district results.) | |
| Growth | Each year, under the state’s Growth Model the school’s mean unadjusted growth percentile in English language arts for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state’s unadjusted median growth percentile. | Achieved |

Action Plan

We strongly support the very rigorous Common Core aligned tests, and we have invested heavily in adapting the academic program to meet these college preparatory standards. In 2014-15 we will continue increasing the complexity of texts our scholars are reading, as well as the quality of instruction to support scholars both in building fundamental skills and developing higher order inquiry and analysis skills. Specifically, we will continue to on the following priorities in the 2014-15 school year:

1. Top quality oral and written responses – ensuring that teachers push and support scholars to produce work that is 100% correct and requires complex thinking.
2. Increased focus on text-dependent questions – supporting scholars to do close reading, annotate text, and use evidence in responses.
3. Additional time for vocabulary instruction – ensuring that instructional time is dedicated daily to building academic vocabulary.

The Achievement First network support team has created extensive guiding materials in each of these areas. In addition to curriculum, these materials include skill specific “Fundamentals of Instruction,” which provide a theoretical and practical background for best instructional practices. The curriculum resources are developed and continually improved by exceptional teachers throughout the network called “curriculum fellows,” and are refined by network-level staff in collaboration with national content area experts. These resources will be used by coaches within the context of the regular coaching process to develop teacher skill in each of these areas. In addition, the network *doubled* the amount of summer training for all teachers and leaders in preparation for the 2014-15 school year.

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 Brownsville, 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
 - 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 3 through 6 grade in April 2014. 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.

**2013-14 State Mathematics Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

| Grade | Total Tested | Not Tested ⁶ | | | Total Enrolled |
|-------|--------------|-------------------------|-----|--------|----------------|
| | | IEP | ELL | Absent | |
| 3 | 85 | | | | 85 |
| 4 | 65 | | | | 65 |
| 5 | 87 | | | 2 | 89 |
| 6 | 88 | | | 1 | 88 |
| 7 | N/A | | | | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | | | | N/A |
| All | 325 | | | 3 | 328 |

Results

Proficiency rates at AF Brownsville are summarized in the table below. They ranged from 38% to 67%.

**Performance on 2013-14 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 | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 3 | 38% | 85 | 37% | 81 |
| 4 | 57% | 65 | 57% | 65 |
| 5 | 49% | 87 | 60% | 65 |
| 6 | 67% | 89 | 69% | 78 |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 53% | 326 | 55% | 289 |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville did not meet this goal.

Additional Evidence

⁶ 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.

Year to year trends are of limited explanatory value because the tests, the underlying standards and the cut scores have changed significantly over the past three years. These results are summarized below.

Mathematics Performance by Grade Level and School Year

| Grade | Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency | | | | | |
|-------|--|---------------|---------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
| | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 3 | 61% | 84 | 32% | 72 | 37% | 81 |
| 4 | 92% | 74 | 49% | 76 | 57% | 65 |
| 5 | N/A | N/A | 37% | 59 | 60% | 65 |
| 6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 69% | 78 |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 77% | 158 | 40% | 207 | 55% | 289 |

Goal 2: Absolute Measure

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

Method

The federal No Child Left Behind law holds schools accountable for making annual yearly progress towards enabling all students to be proficient. As a result, the state sets an AMO each year to determine if schools are making satisfactory progress toward the goal of proficiency in the state's learning standards in mathematics. To achieve this measure, all tested students must have a Performance Level Index (PLI) value that equals or exceeds the 2013-14 mathematics AMO of 86. The PLI is calculated by adding the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 2 through 4 with the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 3 and 4. Thus, the highest possible PLI is 200.⁷

Results

The PLI was 140, exceeding the target AMO of 86.

Mathematics 2013-14 Performance Level Index (PLI)

| Number in Cohort | Percent of Students at Each Performance Level | | | |
|------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|
| | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
| | 13 | 34 | 38 | 15 |

⁷ In contrast to NYSED's Performance Index, the PLI does not account for year-to-year growth toward proficiency.

$$\begin{array}{rcccccc}
 \text{PI} & = & 34 & + & 38 & + & 15 & = & 87 \\
 & & & & 38 & + & 15 & = & \underline{53} \\
 & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 140
 \end{array}$$

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this goal.

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

Method

A school compares tested students enrolled in at least their second year to all tested students in the surrounding public school district. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students in at least their second year at the school and the total result for all students at the corresponding grades in the school district.⁸

Results

AF Brownsville significantly outperformed the local district at each grade level.

**2013-14 State Mathematics 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 | |
| | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 3 | 37% | 81 | 16% | 761 |
| 4 | 57% | 65 | 12% | 899 |
| 5 | 60% | 65 | 13% | 750 |
| 6 | 69% | 78 | 14% | 1004 |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 55% | 289 | 14% | 3414 |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this goal.

⁸ Schools can acquire these data when the New York State Education Department releases its Access 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](#).

Additional Evidence

AF Brownsville has consistently met this goal.

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 | | | | | |
|-------|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
| | Charter School | Local District | Charter School | Local District | Charter School | Local District |
| 3 | 61% | 30% | 32% | 13% | 37% | 16% |
| 4 | 92% | 37% | 49% | 9% | 57% | 12% |
| 5 | N/A | N/A | 37% | 8% | 60% | 13% |
| 6 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 69% | 14% |
| 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | 75% | 33% | 40% | 10% | 55% | 14% |

Goal 2: Comparative Measure

Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state mathematics exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State.⁹

Method

The Charter Schools Institute conducts a Comparative Performance Analysis, which compares the school's performance to demographically similar public schools state-wide. 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 economically disadvantaged percentage. The difference between the schools' 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 small 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 2013-14 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2012-13 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

⁹ The Institute will continue using *economically disadvantaged* instead of *eligibility for free lunch* as the demographic variable in 2013-14. Schools should report previous year's results using reported free-lunch statistics.

Results

The effect size for AF Brownsville was 0.85, or “Higher than Expected to a Large Degree.”

2012-13 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 | 32.4 | 23.9 | 8.5 | 0.50 | |
| 4 | | 76 | 48.6 | 26.3 | 22.3 | 1.32 | |
| 5 | | 90 | 31.1 | 20.1 | 11.0 | 0.72 | |
| 6 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | |
| All | | 84% | 240 | 37.0 | 23.3 | 13.8 | 0.85 |

| |
|--|
| School’s Overall Comparative Performance: |
| <i>Higher than Expected to a Large Degree</i> |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved the target, with an effect size of 0.85, or “higher than expected to a large degree.”

Additional Evidence

AF Brownsville has consistently performed higher than expected to large degree.

Mathematics Comparative Performance by School Year

| School Year | Grades | Percent Eligible for Free Lunch | Number Tested | Actual | Predicted | Effect Size |
|-------------|--------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|-----------|-------------|
| 2010-11 | 3 | 67% | 79 | 79.7 | 50.2 | 1.59 |
| 2011-12 | 3-4 | 71% | 158 | 54.9 | 20.5 | 1.11 |
| 2012-13 | 3-5 | 84% | 240 | 74 | 32.4 | 0.85 |

Goal 2: Growth Measure¹⁰

Each year, under the state’s Growth Model, the school’s mean unadjusted growth percentile in mathematics for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state’s unadjusted median growth percentile.

¹⁰ See Guidelines for [Creating a SUNY Accountability Plan](#) for an explanation.

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 2013-14 and also have a state exam score in 2012-13 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2012-13 scores are ranked by their 2013-14 scores and assigned a percentile based on their relative growth in performance (mean 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 statewide median, it must have a mean growth percentile greater than 50.

The 2013-14 Mean Growth Percentile ranged from 59 to 76, with an average of 66, as shown in the table below.

2013-14 Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

| Grade | Mean Growth Percentile | |
|-------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | School | Statewide Average |
| 4 | 61 | 50.0 |
| 5 | 59 | 50.0 |
| 6 | 76 | 50.0 |
| 7 | N/A | 50.0 |
| 8 | N/A | 50.0 |
| All | 66 | 50.0 |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this goal.

Additional Evidence

Results are summarized in the table below.

Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level and School Year

| Grade | Mean Growth Percentile | | | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-------------------|
| | 2010-11 ¹¹ | 2011-12 ¹⁴ | 2013-14 | Statewide Average |
| 4 | | | 61 | 50.0 |
| 5 | | | 59 | 50.0 |
| 6 | | | 76 | 50.0 |
| 7 | | | N/A | 50.0 |
| 8 | | | N/A | 50.0 |
| All | | | N/A | 50.0 |

¹¹ Grade level results not available.

Summary of the Mathematics Goal

AF Brownsville achieved all of its math goals, with the exception of the 75% proficiency.

| 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 Performance Level Index (PLI) on the state mathematics exam will meet that year's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system. | 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 local school district. | 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 2012-13 school district 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 state's unadjusted median growth percentile. | Achieved |

Action Plan

AF Brownsville will continue the core improvement strategies established over the last two years. We will continue upgrading the curricular resources available to teachers via the curriculum fellows model described under the ELA section of this Progress Report. Additionally, AF Brownsville teachers participated in increased math-specific professional development during summer training, and will continue to receive weekly coaching. Additionally, math interventions for struggling students will be more systematic, and will be triggered by the NWEA Math for Primary Grades assessment to ensure that every struggling student receives tailored extra support.

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 proficiency on the New York State science examination.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program science assessment to students in 4th grade in spring 2014. 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 (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year) to score at proficiency.

Results

One hundred percent of AF Brownsville 4th graders were proficient on the science exam.

**Charter School Performance on 2013-14 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 | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 4 | 100% | 65 | 100% | 65 |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this goal.

Additional Evidence

AF Brownsville has had very high proficiency rates in each of the years the 4th grade exam has been administered.

Science Performance by Grade Level and School Year

| Grade | Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year at Proficiency | | | | | |
|-------|---|------------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------|
| | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
| | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 4 | N/A | N/A | 95% | 76 | 100% | 65 |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | TBD | TBD | 95% | N/A | 100% | 65 |

Goal 3: Comparative Measure

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

Method

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

Results

The results are summarized in the table below.

**2013-14 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 | |
| | Percent | Number Tested | Percent | Number Tested |
| 4 | 100% | 65 | TBD | TBD |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

Evaluation

AF Brownsville achieved this goal.

Additional Evidence

Prior year performance is summarized below.

**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 | | | | | |
|-------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | 2011-12 | | 2012-13 | | 2013-14 | |
| | Charter School | Local District | Charter School | Local District | Charter School | Local District |
| 4 | TBD | TBD | 95% | 74% | 100% | TBD |
| 8 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| All | TBD | TBD | 95% | 74% | 100% | 76% |

Summary of the Science Goal

AF Brownsville achieved its science goals.

| Type | Measure | Outcome |
|-------------|--|----------|
| Absolute | Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State 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 local school district. | TBD |

Action Plan

AF Brownsville will continue the development of the science program in partnership with Achievement First, which is working with BSCS, a national leader in the development and evaluation of K-12 science programs.

NCLB

Goal 4: NCLB

The school will make Adequate Yearly Progress.

Goal 4: Absolute Measure

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

Method

Since *all* students are expected to meet the state's learning standards, the federal No Child Left Behind legislation stipulates that various sub-populations and demographic categories of students among all tested students must meet state proficiency standards. New York, like all states, established a system for making these determinations for its public schools. Each year the state issues School Report Cards. The report cards indicate each school's status under the state's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) accountability system.

Results

AF Brownsville is in Good Standing.

Evaluation

AF Brownsville met this goal.

Additional Evidence

AF Brownsville has consistently been in Good Standing.

NCLB Status by Year

| Year | Status |
|---------|---------------|
| 2011-12 | Good Standing |
| 2012-13 | Good Standing |
| 2013-14 | Good Standing |