

**ACHIEVEMENT FIRST ASPIRE
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**2016-17 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

Submitted to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on:

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By Jonathan Pagan

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INTRODUCTION

Jonathan Pagan, Data and Policy Analyst prepared this 2016-17 Accountability Progress Report on behalf of the school's board of trustees:

Trustee's Name	Board Position
Deborah Shanley	Chair
Jon Atkeson	Treasurer
Andy Hubbard	Secretary
Justin Cohen	Trustee
Romy Coquillette	Trustee
Lee Gause	Trustee
Lee Gelernt	Trustee
L. Priscilla Hall	Trustee
Andy Hubbard	Trustee
Judith Jenkins	Trustee
Adrienne Loiseau	Parent Representative
Daniel Russell	Trustee
Amy Arthur Samuels	Trustee
Angela Tucker	Parent Representative
Ambrose Wooden, Jr.	Trustee
Natasha Lewis	Parent Representative

Sarah Iannucci has served as the elementary principal since 2013.

Zachary Segall has served as the middle school principal since 2017.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of Achievement First Aspire 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 Aspire elementary academy opened in August 2013, and served grades K-4 in 2016-17. The student body is 78% Black, 21% Latino. 79% of students are eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches. 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	Total
2012-13										
2013-14	89	92								
2014-15	61	85	90							
2015-16	90	85	93	95						
2016-17	87	88	89	90	78					432

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

All students at Achievement First Aspire Charter School (AF Aspire) 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.

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 2017. 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

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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).

2016-17 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	91					91
4	78					78
5	0					
6	0					
7	0					
8	0					
All	169					169

RESULTS

Overall, students enrolled in at least their second year at AF Aspire perform about the same on the English Language Arts Exam as their peers.

Performance on 2016-17 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	47%	91	48%	80
4	40%	78	40%	72
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	44%	169	44%	152

EVALUATION

AF Aspire did not achieve this goal. Across the state, scores have been significantly lower due to the shift to the Common Core Learning Standards.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

In their first year of testing, AF Aspire students in at least their second year had an overall proficiency of 44%.

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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English Language Arts Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3			45%	77	48%	80
4					40%	72
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			45%	77	44%	152

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 PLI value that equals or exceeds the 2016-17 English language arts AMO of 111. 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

AF Aspire's PLI is 136, outperforming the English Language Arts AMO of 111.

English Language Arts 2016-17 Performance Level Index

Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	12%	39%	38%	11%

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc}
 \text{PI} & = & 39 & + & 38 & + & 11 & = & 88 \\
 & & & & 38 & + & 11 & = & \underline{49} \\
 & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 136
 \end{array}$$

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

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EVALUATION

AF Aspire 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 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 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 Aspire students outperformed their district peers in 3rd and 4th grade.

2016-17 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 2nd Year		All District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	48%	80	28%	1813
4	40%	72	29%	1868
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	44%	152	29%	3681

EVALUATION

AF Aspire achieved this goal.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

AF Aspire continues to outperform its host district.

³ 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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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					
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Charter School	District	Charter School	District	Charter School	District
3			45%	24%	48%	28%
4					40%	29%
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			45%	24%	44%	29%

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 2015-16 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2015-16 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

RESULTS

AF Aspire had an effect size of 0.87 for 3rd grade.

2015-16 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	87%	77	45%	29%	16%	0.87
4						

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5						
6						
7						
8						
All	87%	77	45%	29%	16%	0.87

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

EVALUATION

AF Aspire achieved this goal with a performance “higher than expected to a large degree.”

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

There is no past evidence because this was AF Aspire’s second year of testing.

English Language Arts Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Eligible for Free Lunch/ Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2013-14						
2014-15						
2015-16	87%	77	45%	29%	16%	0.87

Goal 1: Growth Measure⁴

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 2015-16 and also have a state exam score from 2014-15 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2014-15 score are ranked by their 2015-16 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.

⁴ See Guidelines for [Creating a SUNY Accountability Plan](#) for an explanation.

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Given the timing of the state’s release of Growth Model data, the 2015-16 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2015-16 results, the most recent Growth Model data available.⁵

RESULTS

AF Aspire achieved a mean growth percentile of 49.0.

2015-16 English Language Arts Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Statewide Median
4	49	50.0
5		50.0
6		50.0
7		50.0
8		50.0
All	49	50.0

EVALUATION

AF Aspire did not meet this goal.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

There is no past evidence because this was AF Aspire’s second year of testing, and so the first year that mean growth percentile is calculated.

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

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			Statewide Median
	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	
4			49	50.0
5				50.0
6				50.0
7				50.0
8				50.0
All			49	50.0

⁵ Schools can acquire these data from the NYSED’s Business Portal: portal.nysed.gov.

SUMMARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS GOAL

AF Aspire achieved two out of the four goals.

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
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 2015-16 results.)	Achieved
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. (Using 2015-16 results.)	Did Not Achieve

ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN

We strongly support the rigorous Common Core aligned tests, and we have invested heavily in adapting the academic program to meet these college preparatory standards. In 2017-18 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 2017-18 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, and intellectual preparation protocol. These resources will be used by coaches within the context of the regular coaching process to develop teacher skill in each of these areas.

MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

AF Aspire 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 Aspire, 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

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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 2017. 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.

2016-17 State Mathematics Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ⁶				Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	Refused	
3	90					90
4	78					78
5						
6						
7						
8						
All	168					168

RESULTS

AF Aspire's overall proficiency in math was 68%.

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.

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Performance on 2016-17 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	82%	90	86%	89
4	54%	78	52%	75
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	68%	168	69%	164

EVALUATION

AF Aspire did not achieve this goal.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

AF Aspire students in their second year performed at 69% overall proficiency in their first year of testing.

Mathematics Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3			57%	77	86%	89
4					52%	75
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			57%	77	69%	164

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.

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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 PLI value that equals or exceeds the 2016-17 mathematics AMO of **109**. 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

AF Aspire's PLI is 170, above the AMO of 109.

Mathematics 2016-17 Performance Level Index (PLI)				
Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	4%	20%	37%	39%

PI	=	20	+	37	+	39	=	94
				37	+	39	=	76
						PLI	=	170

EVALUATION

AF Aspire 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 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.⁸

RESULTS

AF Aspire outperformed the local district on the state mathematics exam in 3rd and 4th grade.

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

⁸ 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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2016-17 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	86%	89	29%	1885
4	52%	75	23%	1919
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	69%	164	26%	3804

EVALUATION

AF Aspire achieved this goal.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

AF Aspire achieved this goal in their second year of state testing.

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					
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Charter School	District	Charter School	District	Charter School	District
3			57%	21%	86%	29%
4					52%	23%
5						
6						
7						
8						
All			57%	21%	69%	26%

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.

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METHOD

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

Given the timing of the state’s release of economically disadvantaged data and the demands of the data analysis, the 2016-17 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2015-16 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

RESULTS

AF Aspire had an effect size of 1.17 in 3rd grade.

2015-16 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	87%	77	57%	32%	25%	1.17
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
All	87%	77	57%	32%	25%	1.17

School’s Overall Comparative Performance:

Higher than expected to a large degree

EVALUATION

AF Aspire achieved this goal with a performance “higher than expected to a large degree”.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

AF Aspire has achieved this goal in each of the past three years.

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Mathematics Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Eligible for Free Lunch/ Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2013-14						
2014-15						
2015-16	87%	77	57%	32%	25%	1.17

Goal 2: Growth Measure⁹

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

METHOD

This 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 2015-16 and also have a state exam score in 2014-15 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2014-15 scores are ranked by their 2015-16 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 perform above the statewide median, it must have a mean growth percentile greater than 50.

Given the timing of the state’s release of Growth Model data, the 2015-16 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2015-16 results, the most recent Growth Model data available.¹⁰

AF Aspire’s Mean Growth Percentile was 49, just below the statewide median of 50.

2015-16 Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Statewide Median
4	49	50.0
5		50.0
6		50.0
7		50.0
8		50.0
All	49	50.0

⁹ See Guidelines for [Creating a SUNY Accountability Plan](#) for an explanation.

¹⁰ Schools can acquire these data from the NYSED’s business portal: portal.nysed.gov.

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EVALUATION

AF Aspire did not achieve this goal.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

There is no past evidence because this was AF Aspire’s second year of testing, and so the first year that mean growth percentile is calculated.

Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2013-14	2015-16	2015-16	Statewide Median
4			49	50.0
5				50.0
6				50.0
7				50.0
8				50.0
All			49	50.0

SUMMARY OF THE MATHEMATICS GOAL

AF Aspire achieved two out of the four goals.

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
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 2015-16 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.	Did Not Achieve

ACTION PLAN

AF Aspire will continue the core improvement strategies established over the last two years. We will continue upgrading the curricular resources available to teachers as described under the ELA section of this Progress Report. Additionally, AF Aspire teachers participated in increased math-specific professional development during summer training, and will continue to receive weekly coaching. Additionally, math interventions for struggling students in grades K-4 will be more

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systematic, and will be triggered by the NWEA Math for Primary Grades assessment to ensure that every struggling student receives tailored extra support, and interventions will be triggered at middle and high school levels by Achievement First interim assessments.

SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science

AF Aspire 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 2017. The school converted each student’s raw score to a performance level and a

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grade-specific scaled score. The criterion for success on this measure requires students enrolled in at least their second year to score at proficiency.

RESULTS

AF Aspire's overall proficiency was 99%, above the goal of 75%.

Charter School Performance on 2016-17 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	99%	67		
8				
All	99%	67		

EVALUATION

AF Aspire achieved this goal.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

This was the first year that AF Aspire administered the science assessment, so there is no prior data.

Science Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year at Proficiency					
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
4					99%	67
8						
All					99%	67

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.

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RESULTS

District results are not currently available.

2016-17 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 Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
4	99%	67		
8				
All	99%	67		

EVALUATION

N/A

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

N/A

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					
	2014-15		2015-16		2016-17	
	Charter School	District	Charter School	District	Charter School	District
4					99%	
8						
All					99%	

SUMMARY OF THE SCIENCE GOAL

AF Aspire achieved the goal for which all required 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 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

AF Aspire will continue the development of the science program in partnership with Achievement

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First, which is working with BSCS, a national leader in the development and evaluation of K-12 science programs.

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NCLB

Goal 4: NCLB

AF Aspire 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 school requiring a local assistance plan.

METHOD

Because *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 Aspire is in Good Standing.

EVALUATION

AF Aspire achieved this goal.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

AF Aspire has been in Good Standing in each of the past two years.

NCLB Status by Year

Year	Status
2014-15	
2015-16	Good Standing
2016-17	Good Standing