

Accountability Plan Progress Reports for the 2006-07 School Year

Reader's Guide

SUNY Authorized Charter Schools

As set forth in the *Practices, Policies and Procedures for the Renewal of Charter Schools Authorized by the State University Board of Trustees*, the single most important factor that the Charter Schools Institute and the State University Board of Trustees consider in making renewal determinations is the school's record in generating successful student achievement outcomes. In order to determine whether a school has met that high standard, **each charter school that the State University Board of Trustees authorizes is required to enter into an accountability agreement, known as an Accountability Plan**, which ultimately becomes part of its charter.

The Charter Schools Institute closely monitors each school's progress toward achieving the goals outlined in its Accountability Plan.

In addition, as part of its annual reporting requirements, **each SUNY authorized charter school must submit an Accountability Plan Progress Report which, from its vantage point, addresses each of the goals and outcome measures contained in its Accountability Plan.**

The information presented in these Progress Reports constitutes important evidence that a school is keeping its promises to its students, parents and community, and is critical to making its case for renewal at the end of its charter period. The most important parts of Progress Reports are student achievement results on state exams and other assessments. However, not all schools will have tested grade levels for a particular state exam. Each year, the state administers English language arts and mathematics tests to 3rd through 8th grade, science tests to the 4th and 8th grades, and social studies tests to the 5th and 8th grades.

Important Note: **The Accountability Plan Progress Report is authored by the charter school.** In reporting school progress toward meeting the outcome measures set forth in the Accountability Plan, schools are encouraged to build a case for the effectiveness of their program, and to lay the groundwork for writing a Renewal Application and ultimately for charter renewal. **The school's evaluation of its own progress does not necessarily reflect the conclusions of the Institute.** Further, the Institute does not affirm the completeness or accuracy of the report's data and may not endorse the school's characterization of the progress it has made toward achieving its Accountability Plan goals. Throughout the life of the school's charter, the Institute will visit each school, generating Institute School Visit Reports, and at the end of each charter period, a Renewal Report (select the <back> button in your browser to return to the school profile to see any/all available reports). These reports include detailed summaries of the Institute's observations of the school, as well as its evaluation of student performance and progress toward meeting the academic subject goals in its Accountability Plan.

**TRUE NORTH ROCHESTER
PREPARATORY
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**2006-07
ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

Submitted to:
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True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School Accountability Plan Progress Report

INTRODUCTION

The mission of True North Rochester Preparatory Charter School ("Rochester Prep") is to prepare all students to enter and succeed in college through effort, achievement and the content of their character. All Rochester Prep students will demonstrate excellence in reading, writing, math, science, and history, while consistently exemplifying the virtues of diligence, integrity, responsibility, compassion, perseverance and respect.

Rochester Prep ensures that students develop the skills, knowledge, and character necessary to grant them full access to opportunity and prosperity, including enrollment and success in college. The school features a rigorous academic program that guides students to meet the highest standards and at the same time develops young men and women of character and integrity.

School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2002-03														
2003-04														
2004-05														
2005-06														
2006-07						73								73

2006-07 Characteristics of Student Population

Characteristic	Percent	Number
American Indian, Alaskan, Asian or Pacific Islander	0%	0
Black	92%	67
White	1%	1
Hispanic	7%	5
Low-Income	78%	57
Special Education	5%	4
Limited English Proficient	0%	0

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

All students at the school will become proficient in reading and writing of the English language.

Measure: Each year, 75 percent of 5th-8th graders who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State ELA examination.

Results: All 77 Rochester Prep students enrolled in January 2007 took the New York State ELA assessment as scheduled. No students were exempted.

Rochester Prep has just completed its first year of operation and the stated measure is therefore not yet applicable. However, we do wish to discuss our interim results here.

**2006-07 State ELA Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ¹			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3					
4					
5	77	0	0	0	77
6					
7					
8					
All	77	0	0	0	77

Charter School Performance on 2006-07 State ELA Exam

Grade	Population	Percent at Each Performance Level					Number Tested
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3/4	
5	All Students	1.3%	37.7%	59.7%	1.3%	61%	77
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year						
All	All Students	1.3%	37.7%	59.7%	1.3%	61%	77
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year						

With the 2007 ELA assessment given just four months after their arrival at Rochester Prep, 61% of students scored proficient on the state ELA test. Just 45% of Rochester City School District 5th grade students were proficient.

While these results already show dramatic improvement over the district (which has a lower FRPL population than Rochester Prep's 78%), we believe the numbers are even more promising than they

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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first appear and indicate a trajectory of increasing results in the coming years. There are several reasons why we believe this to be the case:

1. ELA scores are “sticky.” That is, because reading and writing are complex and multi-faceted skills, scores take longer to move than in math and other subjects. Instilling in students a lifetime’s knowledge of vocabulary, the ability to infer unstated meaning from a text, and knowledge of enough books to sense what’s unconventional about a given text takes time.

In light of that we would be surprised to see our ELA scores jump as rapidly as our math scores. That said, one effective way to make sense of first year ELA scores is to compare them to those of other schools in the same situation- i.e. that enroll students for the first time starting in grade 5.

The following chart compares Rochester Prep to all other charter schools in New York that inherit students for the first time in Grade 5. Rochester Prep outscored the great majority of these schools, finishing 4th of 17 and outscoring schools such as those run by KIPP which have consistently achieved mastery at or near 75% by the 6th grade year.

Proficiency Rates -- 2007 ELA -- All NY Charters Initially Enrolling Students at Grade 5					
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Proficient
Williamsburg Collegiate Charter School (Uncommon Schools)	0.0%	25.4%	71.4%	3.2%	74.6%
Ross Global Academy Charter School	2.9%	25.7%	62.9%	8.6%	71.4%
KIPP Academy Charter School	4.7%	25.0%	67.2%	3.1%	70.3%
True North Rochester Prep (Uncommon Schools)	1.3%	37.7%	59.7%	1.3%	61.0%
KIPP Amp Charter School	1.7%	39.0%	52.5%	6.8%	59.3%
Harlem Village Academy Charter School Ehvac	3.4%	37.9%	58.6%	0.0%	58.6%
Achievement First Endeavor Charter School	7.7%	37.2%	55.1%	0.0%	55.1%
Achievement First Crown Heights Charter School	6.8%	38.4%	54.8%	0.0%	54.8%
Bronx Preparatory Charter School	2.7%	43.8%	52.7%	0.9%	53.6%
KIPP Infinity Charter School	1.5%	45.5%	51.5%	1.5%	53.0%
Leadership Village Academy Charter School	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%
KIPP STAR	7.1%	45.7%	47.1%	0.0%	47.1%
KIPP Tech Valley Charter School	3.7%	56.1%	39.0%	1.2%	40.2%
New Heights Academy Charter School	10.5%	54.7%	34.9%	0.0%	34.9%
Albany Preparatory Charter School	6.1%	63.3%	30.6%	0.0%	30.6%
Achievement Academy Charter School	17.3%	53.8%	28.8%	0.0%	28.8%
KIPP Sankofa Charter School	14.3%	64.3%	21.4%	0.0%	21.4%

2. A second way to assess progress in early-stage ELA scores is to look at the percent of students scoring at Level 1. If students were truly making accelerated progress towards long-term proficiency, one would expect to see them moving out of Level 1 even before they began arriving at Level 3 and Level 4. That is, even if we might not expect students to reach Level 4 in ELA by January of the first year, we might expect to see a minimum of Level 1 scores. By this measure, Rochester Prep’s excellent progress is again visible. Just one student (1.3%) scored at Level 1². This is among the lowest rates of any school in Rochester.
3. A final indication that Rochester Prep’s ELA scores will continue to rise under the current program can be gleaned from an analysis of the Reading and Language batteries of the TerraNova assessment. A same-student cohort of Rochester Prep students gained 19.5 percentiles (10.4 NCE) in Reading and 27.4 percentiles (14.9 NCE) in Language,

² To put this score in more context, the student in question has significant special needs and had been exempted from all state exams prior to changes fostered by NCLB

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respectively. These are outstanding value-added gains by any standard and suggest that 1) the strong results in Rochester Prep’s first year were not a result of a selection effect but rather the growth of previously low performing students and 2) students are making rapid progress in comparison to their peers on an assessment strongly correlated to, if admittedly different from, the state assessment. Further data from the TerraNova reinforces this conclusion: 83% of Rochester Prep students made gains in their percentile score in Reading between October and June. 93% of Rochester Prep students made gains in their percentile score in Language between October and June. And whereas 14 Rochester Prep students scored in the bottom quintile of students nationally in their reading skills in October, by year’s end just 4 students scored in the lowest quintile, a decrease of 71%.

A summary of Rochester Prep’s TerraNova scores is attached (see Tab 2, Other Standardized Assessment Results Charts).

Measure: Each year, the school’s aggregate Performance Index on the State ELA exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective set forth in the state’s NCLB accountability system.

Results: Rochester Prep’s AMO target for ELA in 2006-2007 was 122. It achieved an ELA PI score of 160 in 2007, exceeding the goal by 38 points.

Calculation of 2006-07 ELA Performance Index (PI)

Grades	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level				Number Tested
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	
5	1	38	60	1	77
		PI =	38 +	60 +	1
			+ 60	+ 1	= 160

Measure: Each year, the percent of students enrolled in at least their second year at Rochester Prep who perform at or above Level 3 on the State ELA exam will be greater than that of the Rochester City School District in each tested grade.

Results: Rochester Prep outscored the Rochester City School District by 16 percentage points (61% vs. 45%) on the 2007 grade 5 ELA exam. Rochester Prep also outscored 31 of the district’s 37 schools that enroll fifth graders on the grade 5 ELA assessment, thus placing Rochester Prep in the top 20% of a ranking of district schools.

Measure: Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the State ELA exam by at least a small Effect Size according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for free lunch among all public schools in New York State. The Effect Size used in this measure will be an average of the individual Effect Sizes for the ELA assessment at each grade level, weighted according to the number of students enrolled at each grade.

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Results: Since up-to-date FRPL percentages for all public schools in New York are not yet available, we are not yet able to complete this analysis.

Measure: Each year, every grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year’s State ELA exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year’s State ELA exam. If a grade-level cohort exceeds 75 percent at or above Level 3 in the previous year, that cohort is expected to show a positive gain in the current year.

Results: This measure is not yet applicable to Rochester Prep. We are aware that next year’s 6th grade cohort will need to score 68% proficient in 2008 to satisfy the measure.

ELA Summary

Since Rochester Prep has just completed its first year of operation and does not have a cohort of students in at least their second year, the measures outlined are not yet fully applicable.

Measure	Type	Description	Outcome
1	Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State examination.	NA
2	Absolute	Each year, the school’s aggregate Performance Index (PI) on the State exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state’s NCLB accountability system.	NA
3	Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	NA
4	Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the State exam by at least a small Effect Size.	NA
5	Value Added	Each year, each grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year’s State exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year’s State exam.	NA

MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

Students will achieve mastery of skills in Mathematics.

Measure: Each year, 75 percent of 5th-8th graders who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State Math examination.

Results: All 77 Rochester Prep students enrolled in March 2007 took the New York State ELA assessment as scheduled. No students were exempted.

While Rochester Prep has just completed its first year of operation it satisfied the above measure anyway, a year early. We therefore wish to discuss our results below.

**2006-07 State Math Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ³			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3					
4					
5	77	0	0	0	77
6					
7					
8					
All	77	0	0	0	77

Charter School Performance on 2006-07 State Math Exam

Grade	Population	Percent at Each Performance Level					Number Tested
		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 3/4	
5	All Students	2.6%	10.4%	54.5%	32.5%	87%	77
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year						
All	All Students	2.6%	10.4%	54.5%	32.5%	87%	77
	Students in At Least 2 nd Year						

In 2007 87% of Rochester Prep students scored proficient on the 5th grade state assessment. 32.5% scored advanced. The rate of math proficiency at Rochester Prep exceeded the Rochester City School District's rate of 47.5% by 39.5% and represents an 83% increase - in short, nearly double the rate of proficiency in the district. Further, the rate of advanced students at Rochester Prep (32.5%) exceeded the district's rate (4.7%) by 28% percent and represents a *six fold increase in the rate of advanced performance at Rochester Prep.*

³ 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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In the long run, though, we believe that it is not just students in Rochester against whom our students will compete for seats in college. A comparison of our results to every district in Monroe County (most of them serving populations of significantly lower need) shows that Rochester Prep managed to outscore several highly regarded suburban districts like Fairport and Webster. Several of these districts have poverty rates below 10% and are exactly the districts to which privileged families move to ensure effective educational options for their children.

Proficiency Rates -- 2007 5th Grade Math Test -- Monroe County					
DISTRICT	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Pct. Proficient
Pittsford Central School District	0.8%	2.5%	51.7%	45.0%	96.6%
Genesee Community Charter School At The Roche	0.0%	6.5%	58.1%	35.5%	93.5%
Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District	0.0%	8.7%	64.5%	26.7%	91.3%
Brighton Central School District	0.8%	8.9%	51.2%	39.1%	90.3%
Churchville-Chili Central School District	2.6%	8.5%	58.7%	30.2%	88.9%
West Irondequoit Central School District	2.6%	9.2%	54.2%	33.9%	88.2%
Penfield Central School District	2.0%	10.4%	58.8%	28.8%	87.6%
True North Rochester Prep	2.6%	10.4%	54.5%	32.5%	87.0%
Fairport Central School District	2.2%	11.2%	62.9%	23.6%	86.5%
Spencerport Central School District	3.3%	11.8%	53.8%	31.1%	84.9%
Webster Central School District	3.2%	13.0%	58.3%	25.5%	83.8%
Gates-Chili Central School District	2.3%	14.0%	64.5%	19.2%	83.7%
Hilton Central School District	4.1%	13.9%	61.4%	20.6%	82.0%
East Irondequoit Central School District	3.5%	18.6%	58.9%	19.0%	77.9%
Rush-Henrietta Central School District	3.4%	20.1%	50.0%	26.5%	76.5%
East Rochester Union Free School District	5.0%	18.8%	61.3%	15.0%	76.3%
Brockport Central School District	4.7%	19.6%	58.8%	16.9%	75.7%
Greece Central School District	4.5%	20.9%	60.5%	14.1%	74.6%
Eugenio Maria De Hostos Charter School	2.6%	38.5%	30.8%	28.2%	59.0%
Rochester City School District	17.4%	35.1%	42.7%	4.7%	47.5%
Urban Choice Charter School	4.9%	63.4%	29.3%	2.4%	31.7%

We also believe that the danger of proficiency is its insufficiency in the long run. Students need to score *advanced*, not just proficient, to enroll and succeed at top colleges. In fact, because Level 4 scores are so important, we ranked Rochester Prep compared to schools in Monroe County according to a College Prep Index, which calculates a score for each school or district by doubling the percent of students scoring at level 4 and adding to that the percent of students scoring at level 3- a more rigorous version of the state's Performance Index (PI). On the College Prep Index, Rochester Prep moves even higher relative to suburban districts with just three elite districts and one charter school (all of them serving privileged populations) outscoring our students.

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College Prep Performance Index -- 2007 5th Grade Math Test -- Monroe County						
DISTRICT	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Pct. Proficient	College Prep Index (2x Level 4 + Level 3)
Pittsford Central School District	0.8%	2.5%	51.7%	45.0%	96.6%	1.42
Brighton Central School District	0.8%	8.9%	51.2%	39.1%	90.3%	1.29
Genesee Community Charter School At The Roche	0.0%	6.5%	58.1%	35.5%	93.5%	1.29
West Irondequoit Central School District	2.6%	9.2%	54.2%	33.9%	88.2%	1.22
True North Rochester Prep	2.6%	10.4%	54.5%	32.5%	87.0%	1.19
Churchville-Chili Central School District	2.6%	8.5%	58.7%	30.2%	88.9%	1.19
Honeoye Falls-Lima Central School District	0.0%	8.7%	64.5%	26.7%	91.3%	1.18
Penfield Central School District	2.0%	10.4%	58.8%	28.8%	87.6%	1.16
Spencerport Central School District	3.3%	11.8%	53.8%	31.1%	84.9%	1.16
Fairport Central School District	2.2%	11.2%	62.9%	23.6%	86.5%	1.10
Webster Central School District	3.2%	13.0%	58.3%	25.5%	83.8%	1.09
Rush-Henrietta Central School District	3.4%	20.1%	50.0%	26.5%	76.5%	1.03
Gates-Chili Central School District	2.3%	14.0%	64.5%	19.2%	83.7%	1.03
Hilton Central School District	4.1%	13.9%	61.4%	20.6%	82.0%	1.03
East Irondequoit Central School District	3.5%	18.6%	58.9%	19.0%	77.9%	0.97
Brockport Central School District	4.7%	19.6%	58.8%	16.9%	75.7%	0.93
East Rochester Union Free School District	5.0%	18.8%	61.3%	15.0%	76.3%	0.91
Greece Central School District	4.5%	20.9%	60.5%	14.1%	74.6%	0.89
Eugenio Maria De Hostos Charter School	2.6%	38.5%	30.8%	28.2%	59.0%	0.87
Rochester City School District	17.4%	35.1%	42.7%	4.7%	47.5%	0.52
Urban Choice Charter School	4.9%	63.4%	29.3%	2.4%	31.7%	0.34

Further data from the Math battery of the TerraNova assessment provides additional evidence that Rochester Prep added significant value in math in 2006-2007. An analysis of a same-student cohort of Rochester Prep students shows that they gained an average of 21.1 percentiles (11.4 NCE) between October 2006 and June 2007. These are outstanding value-added gains by any standard and suggest that 1) the strong results in Rochester Prep’s first year were not a result of a selection effect but rather the growth of previously low performing students and 2) students are making rapid progress in comparison to their peers on an assessment strongly correlated to, if admittedly different from, the state assessment.

A summary of Rochester Prep’s TerraNova scores is attached (see Tab 2, Other Standardized Assessment Results Charts).

Measure: Each year, the school’s aggregate Performance Index on the State Math exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective set forth in the state’s NCLB accountability system.

Results: Rochester Prep’s AMO target for Math in 2006-2007 was 86. It achieved a Math PI score of 186 in 2007, exceeding the goal by 100 points.

Calculation of 2006-07 Math Performance Index (PI)

Grades	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level				Number Tested				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4					
5	3	10	55	33	77				
	PI	=	10	+	55	+	33	=	186

Measure: Each year, the percent of students enrolled in at least their second year at Rochester Prep who perform at or above Level 3 on the State Math exam will be greater than that of the Rochester City School District in each tested grade.

Results: The 87% rate of math proficiency achieved at Rochester Prep in 2007 exceeded the Rochester City School District's rate of 47.5% by 39.5 percentage points and represents an 83% increase- nearly double the rate of proficiency in the district. The rate of advanced students at Rochester Prep (32.5%) exceeded the district's rate (4.7%) by 28 percentage points and represents a *six fold increase in the rate of advanced performance.*

Rochester Prep also outscored 37 of the district's 38 schools that enroll fifth graders on the grade 5 Math assessment.

Measure: Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the State Math exam by at least a small Effect Size according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for free lunch among all public schools in New York State. The Effect Size used in this measure will be an average of the individual Effect Sizes for the Math assessment at each grade level, weighted according to the number of students enrolled at each grade.

Results: Since up-to-date FRPL percentages for all public schools in New York are not yet available, we are not yet able to complete this analysis.

Measure: Each year, every grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year's State Math exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year's State Math exam. If a grade-level cohort exceeds 75 percent at or above Level 3 in the previous year, that cohort is expected to show a positive gain in the current year.

This measure is not yet applicable to Rochester Prep. However, as 87% of students scored proficient, it is worth noting that no gap will exist to close next year.

Mathematics Summary

Since Rochester Prep has just completed its first year of operation and does not have a cohort of students in at least their second year, the measures outlined are not yet fully applicable.

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Measure	Type	Description	Outcome
1	Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State examination.	NA
2	Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Index (PI) on the State exam will meet the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	NA
3	Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	NA
4	Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the State exam by at least a small Effect Size.	NA
5	Value Added	Each year, each grade-level cohort will reduce by one-half the gap between the percent at or above Level 3 on the previous year's State exam and 75 percent at or above Level 3 on the current year's State exam.	NA

SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science
Students will demonstrate mastery of skills and knowledge in Science.

Measure: Each year in each tested grade, 75 percent of students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State Science examination.

Results: Rochester Prep does not yet take the Grade 8 New York State Science Examination.

Measure: Each year in each tested grade, the percent of students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State Science exam will be greater than that of all students in the respective grades in the local school district.

Results: Rochester Prep does not yet take the Grade 8 New York State Science Examination.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Goal 4: Social Studies
Students will demonstrate mastery of skills and knowledge in Social Studies.

Measure: Each year in each tested grade, 75 percent of students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at or above Level 3 on the New York State Social Studies examination.

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Results: Rochester Prep does not yet take the Grade 8 New York State Social Studies Examination. Since it enrolls students in 5th grade, results of the Grade 5 New York State Social Studies Examination, given just two months into their tenure at Rochester Prep, do not apply to this measure.

Measure: Each year in each tested grade, the percent of students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at or above Level 3 on the State Social Studies exam will be greater than that of all students in the respective grades in the local school district.

Results: Rochester Prep does not yet take the Grade 8 New York State Social Studies Examination. Since it enrolls students in 5th grade, results of the Grade 5 New York State Social Studies Examination, given just two months into their tenure at Rochester Prep, do not apply to this measure.