



**Success Academy Charter School –
Union Square**

**2015-16 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

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By Jessica Hinel

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Jessica Hinel, Data Coordinator, prepared this 2015-16 Accountability Progress Report on behalf of the school's board of trustees:

Trustee's Name	Board Position
Sam Cole	Chair
Bryan Binder	Vice Chair
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Graham Officer	
Jarrett Posner	
Lorenzo Smith	
Andy Stone	

Jennifer Waldman has served as the school leader since the 2014-15 school year.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of Success Academy – Union Square (“SA”) is to provide students in New York City with an exceptionally high-quality education that gives them the knowledge, skills, character, and disposition to meet and exceed New York State Common Core Learning Standards and the resources to lead and succeed in school, college, and a competitive global economy.

School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year¹

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2012-13														
2013-14	65	52												117
2014-15	69	70	82											221
2015-16	82	77	85	79										323

¹ Enrollment numbers are current as of April 7, 2016. Per instruction from SUNY, enrollment numbers reflect originating charters.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading, writing, and comprehending the English language.

Background

Believing that all students can succeed, SA goes above and beyond Common Core standards. SA uses THINK Literacy, a comprehensive balanced literacy program, in all grades. THINK Literacy was developed in-house by the Instructional Management team at Success Academy Charter Schools, the charter management organization. There are many components of THINK, including Shared Text, Guided Reading, Read Aloud with Discussion, Reading Workshop, and Writing Workshop. During Shared Text, the teacher displays a text and the whole class reads and analyzes it together, giving students practice interpreting brief, engaging texts. During Guided Reading, the teacher works with a small group of students to read and comprehend a book that is one level above what they can read and understand independently. During Read Aloud with Discussion, the teacher models the internal thinking that excellent readers exhibit, and students discuss their ideas about the book with their classmates. During Reading Workshop and Writing Workshop, students internalize key aspects of great reading and writing, through direct instruction, independent work, and partner work. All THINK components press students to read, write, think, and speak with clarity and precision.

In kindergarten and first grade, students also receive extensive phonics instruction. This early literacy curriculum is modeled on an enhanced version of Success For All (SFA), which has a proven track record in urban schools and has been implemented in 1,300 schools around the United States.

Students are assessed in reading regularly. They progress to the next instructional reading level when ready. Thus, children are assigned to appropriate reading levels based on reading performance, not age or grade.

SA enforces specific protocols for how it collects, distributes, and analyzes data. These protocols work to help teachers and school leaders freely access information in real-time. In a fast-paced and constantly changing school environment, having ready access to academic data empowers the staff to better decide how to expend time and resources so as to maximize student achievement.

SA views its teachers as Olympic athletes who must constantly train and improve their skills. Professional development is a regular part of their professional responsibilities as it develops skills, provides content area knowledge, and improves pedagogical techniques so that the teachers are prepared to “win the race” that is educating children. Further information is available in the school’s charter.

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.

This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State ELA exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the

school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program English language arts assessment to students in April 2016. Each student's raw score has been converted to a grade-specific scaled score and a performance level.

The table below summarizes participation information for this year's test administration. The table indicates total enrollment and total number of students tested. It also provides a detailed breakdown of those students excluded from the exam. Note that this table includes all students according to grade level, even if they have not enrolled in at least their second year (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year).

**2015-16 State English Language Arts Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ²			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	79	0	0	0	79
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
All	79	0	0	0	0

Results

Based on scores from 2015-16, SA exceeded the absolute measure goal for ELA.

**Performance on 2015-16 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	92.41%	79	92.11%	76
4				
5				
6				

² 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.

7				
8				
All	92.41%	79	92.11%	76

Evaluation

SA met the absolute measure goal in 2015-16 for ELA.

Additional Evidence

SA exceeded this absolute measure goal for ELA. As it continues to improve its ELA program, SA expects to continue to perform well in the future.

English Language Arts Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3					92.11%	76
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
All					92.11%	76

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 2015-16 English language arts AMO of 104. 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 200.³

³ In contrast to SED's Performance Index, the PLI does not account for year-to-year growth toward proficiency.

Results

For 2015-16, SA achieved a PLI of 192. This is significantly greater than the target AMO of 104.

English Language Arts 2015-16 Performance Level Index (PLI)

Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
79	0%	8%	44%	48%

$$\begin{array}{rclclclclcl} \text{PLI} & = & 8 & + & 44 & + & 48 & = & 100 \\ & & & & 44 & + & 48 & = & \underline{92} \\ & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 192 \end{array}$$

Evaluation

SA met this goal by achieving a PLI of 192.

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.⁴

Results

SA achieved an overall proficiency rate of 92.11% (for students enrolled in at least their second year), higher than the local district's proficiency rate.

2015-16 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	92.11%	76	70.94	2839
4				

⁴ 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](#).

5				
6				
7				
8				
All	<u>92.11%</u>	76	<u>70.94%</u>	2839

Evaluation

SA met this goal with a proficiency rate that exceeded the local district's proficiency rate.

Additional Evidence

SA outperformed the local district in the below years.

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					
	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
3					92.11%	70.94%
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
All						

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

SUNY has not provided Effect Size data.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Results

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

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 school did not serve testing grades for the New York State English language arts examination in 2014-2015.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Summary of the English Language Arts Goal

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State English language arts exam for grades 3-8.	Achieved

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

	This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State ELA exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.	
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 regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. (Using 2014-15 school district results.)	N/A
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.	N/A

Action Plan

In order to continue improving in English language arts, SA will make the following improvements to its literacy program:

- More effectively use shared text to enhance student discussions around literature that are truly student-driven and less directed by the teacher.
- Provide students with more opportunities to respond to literature in writing.
- Promote genre variety in the classroom by giving students short excerpts of non-fiction, realistic fiction, folktales, interviews, plays, pamphlets, advertisements, etc.
- Help students identify the main idea of what they read in order to better understand author's purpose and connect details to a cohesive narrative.
- Deepen class discussions around literature to transcend the literal and have students infer character traits, feelings and other aspects of literature not explicitly written.

MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

Students will show competency in their understanding and application of mathematical computation and problem solving.

Background

SA uses Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) and the Investigations math program. Some of its key elements are described below:

- Problem Solving – CGI offers students a chance to solve real world, contextualized mathematical problems using conceptual understanding. Students learn the basics of problem solving strategies by solving daily word problems that require critical thinking and both written and verbal expression of mathematical reasoning. Students work individually to solve a problem and then share their strategies with their peers. The teacher leads a discussion based on student strategies that leads to understanding of mathematical properties.
- Assessment – SA administers Math Interim Assessments and weekly quizzes to determine the progress of students with respect to the Common Core standards. Teachers use the data to inform future instruction.
- Common Core State Standard Alignment – SA has mapped the scope and sequence of CGI and the Investigations math program to closely align with the Common Core. This scope and sequence closely follows the state and national requirements of what students should know and be able to do at each administration of the state math assessments. By aligning closely with the Common Core and assessments, teachers will have a much better sense of where their students stand in SA’s goal of preparing all students for college-track level mathematics in middle and high school.
- Conceptual Understanding – Investigations math places an emphasis on open-ended exploration and interactive learning components to each lesson to let students make sense of mathematics by building on ideas and observations from previous experiences. By learning mathematical ideas and procedures that is grounded in meaning, students are able to apply their thinking to new situations and unfamiliar problems. CGI uses daily world problems to give students meaning, understanding, and application to the math they learn.
- Computational Fluency – SA also provides students with regular math facts practice because it recognizes the importance of computational fluency. Math facts quizzes emphasize both accuracy and speed.

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.

This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State mathematics exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school’s performance.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program mathematics assessment to students in April 2016. 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.

**2015-16 State Mathematics Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ⁶			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	79	0	0	0	79
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
All	79	0	0	0	79

Results

Based on scores from 2015-16, SA exceeded the absolute measure goal for math.

**Performance on 2015-16 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	98.73%	79	98.68%	76
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	98.73%	79	98.68%	76

Evaluation

SA met the absolute measure goal in 2015-16 for mathematics.

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.

SA exceeded this absolute measure goal for math by a wide margin. As it continues to improve its math program, SA expects to continue to perform well in the future.

Mathematics Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3					98.68%	76
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
All					98.68%	76

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 2015-16 mathematics AMO of 101. 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

For 2015-16, SA achieved a PLI of 199. This is substantially greater than the target AMO of 101.

Mathematics 2015-16 Performance Level Index (PLI)

Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
79	0%	1%	14%	85%

$$PI = 1\% + 14 + 85 = 100$$

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

$$14 + 85 = 99$$

$$PLI = 199$$

Evaluation

SA met this goal by achieving a PLI of 199.

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 the performance of tested students enrolled in at least their second year to that of 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

SA achieved an overall proficiency rate of 98.68% (for students enrolled in at least their second year), higher than the local district's proficiency rate.

**2015-16 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	98.68%	76	70.94%	2839
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
All	98.68%	76	70.94%	2839

Evaluation

SA met this goal with a proficiency rate that exceeded the local district's proficiency rate.

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](#).

Additional Evidence

SA outperformed the local district in the below years.

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					
	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
3					98.68%	70.94%
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
All					98.68%	70.94%

Goal 2: Comparative Measure

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

Method

SUNY has not provided Effect Size data.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

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 school did not serve testing grades for the New York State mathematics examination in 2014-2015.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Summary of the Mathematics Goal

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. This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State math exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.	Achieved
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 2014-15 school district results.)	N/A

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

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.	N/A
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Action Plan

Despite impressive state math test results, SA is looking to make the following improvements to the math program:

- More effectively guide students to move away from invented strategies for solving problems, which can sometimes be laborious, towards more efficient strategies that improve accuracy
- Improve the pacing calendar for math instruction so that teachers have time to teach oft-overlooked skills like fractions

SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science

Students will understand and apply scientific principles at a proficient level.

Background

The school's curriculum is unique in its attention to science, including unprecedented daily instruction. The school uses a discovery-based, experiential approach to science, guided by the most influential authorities on elementary science education today, the American Association for the Advancement of Science Benchmarks and the National Resource Council National Science Education Standards. Taught by specialized science teachers, students have hands-on experience with objects, materials, and organisms to understand the natural world. The curriculum provides students with a solid foundation in discovery-based science to ensure that they can excel in middle and high school science classes.

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.

This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State science exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.

Method

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State science examination in 2015-2016.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

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

This school did not serve testing grades for the New York State science examination in 2015-2016 or in any of the comparison years.

Results

Not applicable.

Evaluation

Not applicable.

Additional Evidence

Not applicable.

Summary of the Science Goal

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. This measure assumes that the general format and structure of the State science exam will remain consistent. To the extent that there are significant format and structure changes to the exam, the school understands that its authorizer will take such changes into account when assessing the school's performance.	N/A
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.	N/A

Action Plan

SA will continue offering discovery-based science to all students five days a week. Results from state science tests show that SA's focus on science is paying considerable dividends.

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 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

SA achieved a status of "Good Standing" for 2015-16.

Evaluation

SA achieved its goal by achieving a status of "Good Standing" for the 2015-16 academic year.

Additional Evidence

SA has maintained its status of "Good Standing" for every year for which information is available and expects to maintain this status in the future.

NCLB Status by Year

Year	Status
2013-14	N/A
2014-15	N/A
2015-16	Good Standing