



**ACHIEVEMENT FIRST APOLLO
CHARTER SCHOOL**

**2014-15 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN
PROGRESS REPORT**

Submitted to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute on:

September 15, 2015

By Umang Gupta

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Umang Gupta, Data & Policy Analyst has prepared this 2014-15 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
Amy Arthur Samuels	
Justin Cohen	
Ted Coons	
Lee Gause	
Lee Gelernt	
L. Priscilla Hall	
Judith Jenkins	
Natasha Lewis	Parent Representative
Adrienne Louiseau	Parent Representative
Claire Robinson	
Dan Russell	
Matt Tartaglia	
Angela Tucker	Parent Representative
Kelly Wachovicz	
Ambrose Wooden Jr.	

Jabari Sims has served as the school leader since 2010.

INTRODUCTION

The mission of Achievement First Apollo 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 Apollo elementary academy opened in August 2010, and served grades K-5 in 2014-15. The student body is 66% Black, 29% Latino, and 4% Asian. 90% 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	9	10	11	12	Total
2011-12	97	98	72											267
2012-13	94	91	91	63										339
2013-14	94	100	96	81	54									425
2014-15	96	94	96	93	90	95								564

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Goal 1: English Language Arts

All students at Achievement First Apollo Charter School (AF Apollo) will be proficient readers and writers of the English language.

Background

We are deeply rooted in our commitment to ensuring that scholars find true joy in reading and writing, and that they leave our program with a deep appreciation for great books, new information, and diverse perspectives. Reading is both a means to college and career readiness as well as a worthy endeavor in itself. Writing is a means not only to express oneself clearly and concisely, but an opportunity to ignite a passion self-discovery and creative expression.

The achievement gap is both fueled and reinforced by a knowledge and vocabulary gap. We believe that building deep knowledge across a range of essential topics will ensure that students are stronger readers and can access complex, content-rich text. We select texts and writing assignments are selected intentionally to reinforce both *world* and *word* knowledge and to align with our history, science, music and art programs when appropriate.

We do not build knowledge for the sake of building knowledge. Our program aims to ensure that all students are curious citizens, intent on expanding their own knowledge of the world through asking questions, reading, writing and discussion. We aim to spark students' inquisitiveness and develop a sense of joy for building their knowledge. Students will seek new understandings and question their previous assumptions on a variety of topics, including those central to the human experience and current world landscape.

Our students must be voracious & critical readers of varied, complex literature and information text. All students will closely read rich text from diverse genres and perspectives to develop both their analytical skill and critical thinking. Texts are selected for their complexity and for their worthiness, ensuring students engage with revolutionary ideas, well-crafted arguments, and great literature. Our program is designed to help students make coherent, thoughtful arguments using sound and sufficient evidence, so that all students are able to speak and write in a manner that is insightful, persuasive and critical.

Goal 1: Absolute Measure

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State English language arts examination for grades 3-8.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program English language arts assessment to students in 3rd through 5th grade in April 2015. 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).

**2014-15 State English Language Arts Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ¹			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	92			1	93
4	90				90
5	95				95
6					
7					
8					
All	277			1	278

Results

Overall, returning students at AF Apollo achieved 31% proficient on the 2015 ELA exam. 4th grade was the highest performing group, attaining 34% proficiency. Results of non-returning students were lower at both 3rd and 5th grade.

**Performance on 2014-15 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	27%	92	29%	83
4	34%	90	34%	80
5	19%	95	28%	46
6				

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.

7				
8				
All	27%	277	31%	209

Evaluation

AF Apollo did not achieve this goal. Across the state, scores have been significantly lower in the past three years due to the shift to Common Core Learning Standards. Despite the drop in passing rate, AF Apollo still outperforms its host districts.

Additional Evidence

Though overall percentage of proficient students decreased, the number of test takers has increased dramatically. When following the 3rd grade cohorts, we see an increase from 3rd to 4th grade in each of the last two years.

English Language Arts Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	35%	63	29%	82	29%	83
4			40%	53	34%	80
5					28%	46
6						
7						
8						
All	35%	63	33%	135	31%	209

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 2014-15 English language arts AMO of 97. 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 Apollo’s PLI equaled the AMO goal of 97

English Language Arts 2014-15 Performance Level Index (PLI)

Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	29%	45%	21%	5%

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc}
 \text{PI} & = & 45 & + & 21 & + & 5 & = & 71 \\
 & & & & 21 & + & 5 & = & \underline{26} \\
 & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 97
 \end{array}$$

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal

Goal 1: Comparative Measure

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

Method

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

Results

The students at AF Apollo outperformed their host district at every single grade, and overall by 14 percentage points.

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

³ Schools can acquire these data when the New York State Education Department releases its Access database containing grade level ELA and math test results for all schools and districts statewide. The NYSED announces the release of the data on its [News Release webpage](#).

**2014-15 State English Language Arts Exam
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level**

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year		All District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	29%	83	17%	1870
4	34%	80	17%	1961
5	28%	46	18%	1782
6				
7				
8				
All	31%	209	17%	5613

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal.

Additional Evidence

AF Apollo has consistently achieved this goal in each of the last three 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					
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
3	35%	14%	29%	16%	29%	17%
4			40%	18%	34%	17%
5					28%	18%
6						
7						
8						
All	35%	14%	33%	17%	31%	17%

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 Charter Schools Institute conducts a Comparative Performance Analysis, which compares the school’s performance to demographically similar public schools state-wide. The Institute uses a regression analysis to control for the percentage of economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. The Institute compares the school’s actual performance to the predicted performance of public schools with a similar economically disadvantaged percentage. The difference between the schools’ actual and predicted performance, relative to other schools with similar economically disadvantaged statistics, produces an Effect Size. An Effect Size of 0.3 or performing higher than expected to a 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 2014-15 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2013-14 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

Results

The overall effect size of AF Apollo was .84.

2013-14 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	83%	82	29%	22%	7%	.47
4	89%	53	40%	21%	19%	1.41
5						
6						
7						
8						
All	87%	135	33%	20%	13%	.84

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

Evaluation

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

Additional Evidence

In the past two years, AF Apollo has achieved this goal.

English Language Arts Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Eligible for Free Lunch/Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2011-12						
2012-13	3	84%	64	36%	20%	1.26
2013-14	3-4	87%	135	33%	20%	.84

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 2013-14 and also have a state exam score from 2012-13 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2012-13 score are ranked by their 2013-14 score and assigned a percentile based on their relative growth in performance (student growth percentile). Students’ growth percentiles are aggregated school-wide to yield a school’s mean growth percentile. In order for a school to perform above the statewide median, it must have a mean growth percentile greater than 50.

This report contains 2014-15 results, the most recent Growth Model data available.⁵

Results

4th graders achieved this goal, while 5th graders did not. Overall AF Apollo students had a Mean Growth Percentile of 51.

2014-15 English Language Arts Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Statewide Median
4	53	50.0
5	49	50.0
6		50.0
7		50.0
8		50.0
All	51	50.0

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

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

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal.

Additional Evidence

AF Apollo did not achieve this goal in the previous year, but was able to this year.

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

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2012-13 ⁶	2013-14	2014-15	Statewide Median
4		38	53	50.0
5			49	50.0
6				50.0
7				50.0
8				50.0
All		38	51	50.0

Summary of the English Language Arts Goal

AF Apollo was able to achieve all goals presented except for the absolute goal of 75% of test takers being proficient.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State English language arts exam for grades 3-8.	Did Not Achieve
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Level Index (PLI) on the state English language arts exam will meet that year's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state English language arts exam will be greater than that of students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state English language arts exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. (Using 2013-14 school district 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.	Achieved

⁶ Grade level results not available.

Action Plan

We strongly support the very rigorous Common Core aligned tests, and we have invested heavily in adapting the academic program to meet these college preparatory standards. In 2015-16 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 2015-16 school year:

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

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

MATHEMATICS

Goal 2: Mathematics

Students will demonstrate competency in the understanding and application of mathematical computation and problem solving.

Background

For students to thrive in the world they will face after college, they must be able to make sense of the world through a mathematical lens. Therefore, learning mathematics requires more than learning facts and procedures for solving certain types of problems. A well-prepared student will develop proficiency and expertise in a number of mathematical practices that have longstanding importance in mathematics education.

In the mathematics program at Achievement First Apollo, mathematical practices come to life through the shifts (focus, coherence, rigor) called for by the Common Core State Standards. We will continue to refine the components of and resources for the program, on our path to seeing these practices and shifts embodied by our students and driving instruction.

Tenets of Achievement First's Mathematics Program:

1. Conceptual Understanding: comprehension of mathematical concepts, operations, and relations
 - While developing conceptual understanding, students make meaning of mathematics and make connections across mathematical ideas which allows for rapid acquisition of new knowledge, greater retention, and ability to apply in novel contexts.
2. Procedural Fluency: skill in carrying out procedures flexibly, accurately, efficiently, and appropriately
 - The development of procedural fluency allows students to focus mental energy on flexibly approaching and thinking through problems, rather than the steps to perform an accurate calculation.
3. Strategic Competence & Adaptive Reasoning: ability to formulate, represent, and solve mathematical problems; capacity for logical thought, reflection, explanation, and justification
 - The development of these habits of mind prepares students to solve mathematical problems that they may encounter throughout the rest of their academic and social lives.
4. Productive Disposition: habitual inclination to see mathematics as sensible, useful, and worthwhile, coupled with a belief in diligence and one's own efficacy.
 - Students approach challenging situations as opportunities to learn and mistakes made along the way as times for feedback and reflection, not representations of personal failure. This productive disposition is the hallmark of having a growth mindset as opposed to one that is fixed.
5. Problem Solving: the umbrella under which all the opportunities to increase proficiency and expertise with the mathematical practices fall
 - While students engage in problem solving they are making sense of problems, thinking strategically about concept and skill applications, planning and executing a viable approach, and reflecting on process and solutions.

Goal 2: Absolute Measure

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State mathematics examination for grades 3-8.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program mathematics assessment to students in 3rd grade through 5th grade in April 2015. 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.

**2014-15 State Mathematics Exam
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested ⁷			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	92			1	93
4	90				90
5	95				95
6					
7					
8					
All	277				278

Results

Students in their second year at AF Apollo performed better in two out of three grade levels, and by 16 percentage points in grade five.

**Performance on 2014-15 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	43%	92	47%	83
4	56%	90	51%	80
5	47%	95	63%	46
6				
7				
8				
All	49%	277	52%	209

Evaluation

AF Apollo did not achieve this goal. Across the state, scores have been significantly lower in the past three years due to the shift to Common Core Learning Standards. Despite the drop in passing rate, AF Apollo still outperforms its host districts as well as the city and state overall.

Additional Evidence

AF Apollo has shown consistent growth in each of the past two years, increasing overall proficiency by 19 percentage points.

⁷ 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.

Mathematics Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year Achieving Proficiency					
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	33%	63	34%	83	47%	83
4			47%	53	51%	80
5					63%	46
6						
7						
8						
All	33%	63	39%	136	52%	209

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 2014-15 mathematics AMO of 94. 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 200.⁸

Results

AF Apollo's PLI for 2014-15 is 131, exceeding the state set AMO of 97 by 34 points.

Mathematics 2014-15 Performance Level Index (PLI)

Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
	18%	33%	36%	13%

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccl}
 \text{PI} & = & 33 & + & 36 & + & 13 & = & 82 \\
 & & & & 36 & + & 13 & = & \underline{49} \\
 & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 131
 \end{array}$$

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal

⁸ In contrast to NYSED's Performance Index, the PLI does not account for year-to-year growth toward proficiency.

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.⁹

Results

AF Apollo students outperformed their host district at each grade level.

**2014-15 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	47%	83	22%	1909
4	51%	80	21%	2006
5	63%	46	27%	1826
6				
7				
8				
All	52%	209	23%	5741

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal.

Additional Evidence

Though the district has improved in each of the past two years, AF Apollo has shown greater improvement.

⁹ 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](#).

**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					
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
3	33%	19%	34%	20%	47%	22%
4			47%	24%	51%	21%
5					63%	27%
6						
7						
8						
All	33%	19%	39%	22%	52%	23%

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

The Charter Schools Institute conducts a Comparative Performance Analysis, which compares the school’s performance to demographically similar public schools state-wide. The Institute uses a regression analysis to control for the percentage of economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. The Institute compares the school’s actual performance to the predicted performance of public schools with a similar economically disadvantaged percentage. The difference between the schools’ actual and predicted performance, relative to other schools with similar economically disadvantaged statistics, produces an Effect Size. An Effect Size of 0.3 or performing higher than expected to a 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 2014-15 analysis is not yet available. This report contains 2013-14 results, the most recent Comparative Performance Analysis available.

Results

The effect size of AF Apollo overall is .46

2013-14 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	83%	83	34%	31%	3%	.14
4	89%	53	47%	28%	19%	.96
5						
6						
7						
8						
All	87%	136	39%	30%	9%	.46

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

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieves this goal, with a performance “higher than expected to a meaningful degree”.

Additional Evidence

AF Apollo has achieved this goal with the same category of performance in each of the two previous years.

Mathematics Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Eligible for Free Lunch/ Economically Disadvantaged	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2011-12						
2012-13	3	84%	64	36%	23%	.73
2013-14	3-4	87%	136	30%	30%	.46

Goal 2: Growth Measure¹⁰

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

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

Method

This measure examines the change in performance of the same group of students from one year to the next and the progress they are making in comparison to other students with the same score in the previous year. The analysis only includes students who took the state exam in 2013-14 and also have a state exam score in 2012-13 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2012-13 scores are ranked by their 2013-14 scores and assigned a percentile based on their relative growth in performance (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.

This report contains 2014-2015 results, the most recent Growth Model data available.¹¹

Results

Each grade level performs above the statewide median of the 50th percentile. Overall, AF Apollo students are in the 62nd growth percentile.

2014-15 Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Statewide Median
4	57	50.0
5	67	50.0
6		50.0
7		50.0
8		50.0
All	62	50.0

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal

Additional Evidence

After lackluster growth in 2013-14, AF Apollo rebounded with a strong performance in 2014-2015.

¹¹ Schools can acquire these data from the NYSED's business portal: portal.nysed.gov.

Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2011-12 ¹²	2013-14	2014-15	Statewide Median
4		39	57	50.0
5			67	50.0
6				50.0
7				50.0
8				50.0
All		39	62	50.0

Summary of the Mathematics Goal

AF Apollo was able to achieve all goals presented except for the absolute goal of 75% of test takers being proficient.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State mathematics exam for grades 3-8.	Did Not Achieve
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Level Index (PLI) on the state mathematics exam will meet that year's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state mathematics exam will be greater than that of students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state mathematics exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. (Using 2013-14 school district results.)	Achieved
Growth	Each year, under the state's Growth Model the school's mean unadjusted growth percentile in mathematics for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state's unadjusted median growth percentile.	Achieved

Action Plan

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

¹² Grade level results not available.

more systematic, and will be triggered by the NWEA Math for Primary Grades assessment to ensure that every struggling student receives tailored extra support.

SCIENCE

Goal 3: Science

Students will demonstrate proficiency in the understanding and application of scientific principles.

Background

Our program is designed to ensure that students develop the skills and understandings necessary to be prepared for introductory college level science courses and ultimately the careers of their choice, including (but not limited to) careers in science, engineering, and technology. Our program goes beyond the floor set by current external assessments to ensure that all performance expectations set forth in the Next Generation Science Standards are met. The rigor of content, concepts, and practices gradually increases in complexity from grade band to grade band, to ensure that our scholars have the knowledge and skills to choose careers in STEM.

The program is driven by the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 Science Education, which states: "To develop a thorough understanding of scientific explanations of the world, students need sustained opportunities to work with and develop the underlying ideas and to appreciate those ideas' interconnections over a period of years rather than weeks or months." To accomplish this goal, students build background knowledge and an understanding of science by deeply engaging with a focused set of core ideas and practices throughout their educational experience. Through this intensive approach, they will build expertise and use their expertise to make sense of new information or tackle problems.

The Next Generation Science Standards call for us to teach the practices or methods of science and engineering within our content and to focus on the many methods and practices of science and engineering rather than a single method. In order to support meaningful learning in science and engineering, our science program integrates core ideas of the discipline, science and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and Common Core literacy and mathematics. In grades K-8, the program is based on integrated science scope & sequences produced by Achievement First, which draw on a variety of resources from educational publishers, external content experts, and internally designed materials.

Goal 3: Absolute Measure

Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State science examination.

Method

The school administered the New York State Testing Program science assessment to students in 4th grade in spring 2015. The school converted each student's raw score to a performance level and a

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

Results

Both students new to AF Apollo and those who have been at the school for two years achieved a proficiency of 83%.

**Charter School Performance on 2014-15 State Science Exam
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	All Students		Charter School Students In At Least 2 nd Year	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
4	83%	90	83%	80
8				

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal

Additional Evidence

In the past two years, AF Apollo has achieved this goal.

Science Performance by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year at Proficiency					
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Percent Proficient	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent Proficient	Number Tested
4			94%	52	83%	80
8						
All			94%	52	83%	80

Goal 3: Comparative Measure

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

Method

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

which the school had tested students in at least their second year and the results for the respective grades in the local school district.

Results

Since there are no results for the 2014-2015 science exams from host districts, we cannot determine whether or not AF Apollo has met this goal.

**2014-15 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	83%	80	TBD	TBD
8				

Evaluation

N/A, there is no host district data.

Additional Evidence

Last year, AF Apollo was able to outperform the host district by 18%.

**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					
	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
4			94%	76%	83%	TBD
8						
All						

Summary of the Science Goal

AF Apollo achieved the goal that 75% of the scholars would be proficient, and based on previous evidence will outperform the local district this year as well.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State examination.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state exam will be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	N/A

Action Plan

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

NCLB

Goal 4: NCLB

The school will make Adequate Yearly Progress.

Goal 4: Absolute Measure

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

Evaluation

AF Apollo achieved this goal

Additional Evidence

Provide a narrative reviewing the school's NCLB status during each year of the current Accountability Period.

NCLB Status by Year

Year	Status
2012-13	Good Standing
2013-14	Good Standing
2014-15	Good Standing