

**Girls Preparatory Charter School of  
the Bronx**

**2016-17 ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN  
PROGRESS REPORT**

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By Ian Rowe, CEO, Public Prep  
 Janelle Bradshaw, Superintendent, Public Prep  
 Janelle Bradshaw, Principal;  
 and Michael Farkosh, Principal

<p><b>Girls Prep Bronx Elementary School</b>          681 Kelly Street          Bronx, NY 10455          Phone: (718) 292-2113          Fax: (718) 292-5586</p>	<p><b>Girls Prep Bronx Middle School</b>          890 Caldwell Avenue          Bronx, NY 10456          Phone: (718) 665-6090          Fax: (718) 665-6095</p>
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Kasimeir Smith prepared the 2016-17 Accountability Plan Progress Report on behalf of Public Prep Academies' board of trustees:

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**Janelle Bradshaw has served as the interim Principal of Girls Preparatory Charter School of the Bronx (grades K-5) since 2017.**

**Michael Farkosh served as resident Principal of Girls Preparatory Charter School of the Bronx (grades 6-8) in 2016-17, and assumed the full duties of Principal in July 2017.**

## INTRODUCTION

Girls Prep Bronx opened in 2009 and serves grades PreK-5. Girls Prep Bronx is part of the Public Prep Network. Public Prep is a nonprofit organization that develops high-quality Universal Pre-Kindergarten and single-sex elementary and middle public schools that pursue excellence through continuous learning and evidence-based instruction. Our model is designed to empower each student to build strong character, demonstrate critical thinking, possess a core body of knowledge and be on a predictive path to earn a degree from a four-year university.

Our model recognizes the significance of starting early in building the self-expectation in students that they will attend and complete college and of providing a strong foundation to help get them there. Our content-rich interdisciplinary curriculum ensures students obtain knowledge, skills, and vocabulary related to English Language Arts, mathematics, history, geography, science, foreign language, and the arts. Furthermore, our schools aim to develop our students' work habits and individual talents by integrating the visual arts, music, athletics, and wellness into our curriculum.

Everything we do is designed to ensure students are prepared to graduate into New York City's top performing independent, parochial, and public schools in order to ensure they continue along the path to college completion.

Our core values are scholarship, merit, sisterhood and responsibility.

### School Enrollment by Grade Level and School Year

School Year	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
2010-11	64	65	71											202
2011-12	72	74	74	73										293
2012-13	72	73	75	74	73									367
2013-14	72	75	75	72	75	76								445
2014-2015	73	76	75	73	75	75	103							550
2015-2016	77	75	74	74	77	75	108	104						664
2016-17	74	75	77	76	76	77	87	99	93					677

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

### **Goal 1: English Language Arts**

Students will become proficient readers of the English language.

GPCSBX uses a balanced literacy approach in conjunction with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as a foundation for planning and instruction. Each integrated literacy block is approximately 110 minutes long at the elementary school and 90 minutes long at the middle school and includes both reading and writing instruction and practice opportunities. Teachers use a lesson format that follows a predictable structure – Warm-Up, Teach, guided practice, Independent Practice, Connect – so that students know what to expect and what is expected of them at each part of the lesson.

GPCSBX students gain the benefits of the workshop model by learning to communicate in a positive and collaborative climate, apply knowledge through meaningful communication about what they have read, self-monitor through independent reading goals, and practice and master skills and standards by incorporating teacher and student feedback.

Teachers are trained and expected to monitor literacy growth using STEP, which is a research-based formative assessment, data management, and professional development system that has been proven to significantly improve student achievement in literacy. STEP assesses children’s literacy skills, provides key data to educators, and trains teachers how to interpret that data in a way that moves children reliably through a 13-level system toward reading proficiency. Students also complete writing diagnostics tied to the units of instruction. Teachers use regular unit assessments in grades 2-5 to monitor student performance and progress.

Assessment tools like the NWEA MAP assessment and unit assessments are used strategically by the principals, department chairs, reading specialists, and our network-level Chief Data and Technology Officer to ensure that immediate re-teach and intervention of ELA skills is incorporated into the daily plans, as well as six week intervention plans. Additionally, the ongoing data informs our RTI (response to intervention) process, a network wide model that targets students for enrichment and/or intervention.

While GPCSBX is committed to incorporating the programs that build strong foundations and embed higher order critical thinking, we also ensure rigor and high academic expectations through standardization and structure. For example, we have developed standardized practices for grading and evaluating student work as well as for small group instruction and Response to Intervention process and criteria.

**Goal 1: Absolute Measure**

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

**Method**

The school administered the New York State Testing Program English language arts assessment to students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade 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.

**2016-17 State English Language Arts Exam  
Number of Students Tested and Not Tested**

Grade	Total Tested	Not Tested			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	76	0	0	3	74
4	75	0	0	2	77
5	73	0	0	4	75
6	82	0	0	2	108
7	98	0	0	1	104
8	56	0	0	1	N/A
All	490	0	0	13	503

**Results**

51% of Girls Prep Bronx students enrolled in at least their second year were proficient on the NYS English language arts examination.

**Performance on 2016-17 State English Language Arts Exam  
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grades	All Students		Enrolled in at least their Second Year	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	64%	76	68%	66
4	57%	75	55%	67
5	42%	73	45%	65
6	21%	82	21%	58
7	51%	98	52%	96
8	59%	56	58%	85
All	49%	490	51%	437

**Evaluation**

Girls Prep Bronx did not meet the accountability measure of 75 percent of students enrolled in at least their second year achieving proficiency. However, as the data in the following sections demonstrates, Girls Prep Bronx students made growth, and also outperformed their host district. Accordingly, we believe the data indicates that Girls Prep is on a predictive path to meeting the goal of 75 percent proficiency in the future.

**Additional Evidence**

The below table indicates that the percentage of students in at least their second year achieving proficiency increased by 8% from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

**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		2016-17	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	29%	70	38%	69	33%	67	64%	76
4	30%	63	26%	66	61%	71	57%	75
5	33%	57	28%	72	29%	68	42%	73
6	N/A	N/A	32%	66	33%	63	21%	82
7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44%	97	51%	98
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%	56
All	31%	190	31%	273	41%	366	49%	490

**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 89. The PLI is calculated by adding the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 2 through 4 with the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 3 and 4. Thus, the highest possible PLI is 200.<sup>1</sup>

**Results**

Girls Prep Bronx's performance index for English language arts was 136 in the 2016-17 school year. This exceeds the AMO of 89.

**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
438	15%	36%	39%	11%

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc}
 \text{PI} & = & 36 & + & 39 & + & 11 & = & 86 \\
 & & & & 39 & + & 11 & = & \underline{50} \\
 & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 136
 \end{array}$$

**Evaluation**

Girls Prep Bronx exceeded the Annual Measurable Objective by 47 points in 2016-17.

<sup>1</sup> In contrast to SED's Performance Index, the PLI does not account for year-to-year growth toward proficiency.

**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.<sup>2</sup>

**Results**

Students enrolled in at least their second year at Girls Prep Bronx outperformed those in their host district, NYC Community District 8.

**2016-17 State English Language Arts Exam  
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level**

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		All District 8 Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	64%	76	30%	2085
4	57%	75	29%	2140
5	42%	73	24%	2164
6	21%	82	20%	2114
7	51%	98	29%	1898
8	59%	56	38%	2040
All	49%	490	27%	12441

**Evaluation**

Girls Prep Bronx met the accountability measure requiring that the proportion of all students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state English language arts exam be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

**Additional Evidence**


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The below table demonstrates that Girls Prep Bronx students has outperformed the students of the school's host district, District 8, in each of the last 4 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		2016-17	
	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8
3	29%	20%	38%	19%	33%	28%	64%	<b>30%</b>
4	30%	20%	26%	21%	61%	31%	57%	<b>29%</b>
5	33%	18%	28%	20%	29%	24%	42%	<b>24%</b>
6	N/A	N/A	32%	19%	33%	20%	21%	<b>20%</b>
7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	44%	24%	51%	<b>29%</b>
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	59%	<b>38%</b>
All	31%	19%	31%	20%	41%	26%	49%	<b>27%</b>

**Goal 1: Comparative Measure**

Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state English language arts exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State.<sup>3</sup>

**Method**

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The Institute will continue using *economically disadvantaged* instead of *eligibility for free lunch* as the demographic variable in 2013-14. Schools should report previous year's results using reported free-lunch statistics.

## Results

In 2015-16, Girls Prep Bronx's aggregate effect size in English language arts was 0.77

### 2015-16 English Language Arts Comparative Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Economically Disadvantaged Students	Number of Students Tested	Percent of Students at Proficiency		Difference between Actual and Predicted	Effect Size
			Actual	Predicted		
3	82.9	72	32	31.3	0.7	0.04
4	88.3	73	59	27.2	31.8	1.79
5	90.8	73	27	19.9	7.1	0.47
6	82.6	103	30	23.2	6.8	0.42
7	75.7	99	44	25.8	18.2	1.11
8						
<b>All</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>38.2</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>0.77</b>

School's Overall Comparative Performance:
Higher than expected to a meaningful degree

## Evaluation

In 2015-16, Girls Prep met this accountability plan goal. Girls Prep's effect size is not yet available for 2016-17, the year relevant to this analysis.

## Additional Evidence

Girls Prep Bronx's effect size remained the same between 2014-15 and 2015-16. Our improvements to curriculum, instruction, and data use make us confident that we will continue to produce strong results in the future.

### English Language Arts Comparative Performance by School Year

School Year	Grades	Percent Eligible for Free Lunch	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2010-11	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2011-12	K-3	73.7	72	30.6	42.3	-0.73
2012-13	K-4	90.0	147	23.3	17.6	0.47
2013-14	K-5	84.5	222	30.0	20.9	0.69
2014-15	K-6	84.5	325	29	18.8	0.77
2015-16	K-7	83.4	420	38.2	12.9	0.77

**Goal 1: Growth Measure<sup>4</sup>**

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 2016-17 and also have a state exam score from 2015-16 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2015-16 score are ranked by their 2016-17 score and assigned a percentile based on their relative growth in performance (student growth percentile). Students’ growth percentiles are aggregated school-wide to yield a school’s mean growth percentile. In order for a school to perform above the statewide median, it must have a mean growth percentile greater than 50.

**Results**

In 2016-17, Girls Prep Bronx’s mean unadjusted growth percentile was 51. This is higher than the state’s unadjusted median growth percentile of 50.0

**2016-17 English Language Arts Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level**

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Statewide Median
4	62	50.0
5	43	50.0
6	45	50.0
7	58	50.0
8	48	50.0
All	51	50.0

**Evaluation**

In 2016-17, Girls Prep Bronx met this accountability plan goal.

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

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2013-13	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
4		40.5	59	62
5		54	50	43
6		58	46	45
7		N/A	55	58
8		N/A	N/A	48
All		51	52	51

### Summary of the English Language Arts Goal

We are committed to providing the resources needed for our students to become proficient readers of the English language. Girls Prep Bronx is committed to a culture of continuous improvement where student achievement and success has no limit.

In 2016-17, Girls Prep Bronx achieved 4 out of the 5 possible measures for evaluation. Below we have outlined an action plan to implement in the coming year. This plan includes programs and processes that have proven to be successful and new strategies that address our observable gaps.

Like the overwhelming majority of charter schools in New York City, Girls Prep did not meet the goal of 75 percent proficiency in 2016-17. However, our outstanding growth data gives us confidence that we are on a predictive path to attaining that goal in the future.

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 2012-13 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

## **Action Plan**

### **Curriculum**

During the charter period, Girls Prep faculty worked diligently with peer faculty across the Public Prep Network to improve the quality and consistency of the ELA curriculum. The K-8 curriculum was constructed through a combination of upgrading the strongest of the units that were already in use, and bringing in high quality external units from Success Academy, Expeditionary Learning and other schools with a strong track record of academic excellence. In 2016-17 teachers across the network implemented a common, standards-aligned ELA curriculum that is coherent in PreK-8, and that contains rich, rigorous texts representing a diverse body of knowledge. Each unit provides common components, including the ability to choose among a variety of rigorous texts, aligned assessments, clear enduring understandings, interdisciplinary connections, and detailed lesson guides for teachers to use, amend, or build upon. All standards, skills, scope and sequence, and end-of-unit assessments are shared in common across Public Prep schools, allowing schools to share instructional techniques and benchmark progress against their peers.

### **Instruction**

The second key lever to drive academic improvement is to continue to refine our coaching and observation processes. As the level of expectations of our students has increased, we have identified that our expectations for adult learning must also increase, and are providing additional levels of support and professional development opportunities to ensure successful and impactful instructional delivery. This year, Girls Prep's full-time instructional leaders include an ELA coach, a Director of Curriculum and Assessment at each campus, and our principals, who are our primary instructional leaders. All of these individuals will regularly observe teachers and provide instructional feedback. Grade team leaders will also conduct informal observations and peer observations. All observations will utilize the Danielson framework as our model of excellent teaching.

Girls Prep has invested in the TeachBoost platform to improve the quality of observation, coaching and evaluation. All teachers will receive a minimum of 15 short and 5 long classroom observations from their coach, which is the average reported by top-quartile schools on TNTP's Insight survey. Our coaching and observation program will also be supported through our partnership with TNTP. From the research literature on school improvement, we know that strong coaching and feedback is one of the highest-leverage strategies that a principal has to improve student achievement. TNTP will also organize Excellent School Visits to ensure our school leaders see best practice.

### **Data & Assessment**

Girls Prep teachers and instructional leaders routinely collect and analyze a wide variety of qualitative and quantitative data in order to improve curriculum and instruction. Students are assessed using curricular-aligned, performance-based assessments as measures of absolute performance. These rigorous assessments require synthesis and high-level application of knowledge from all subject areas. Student growth is measured using the NWEA MAP and STEP assessments. Throughout the year, students take interim assessments aligned with our scope and sequence in mathematics and in English Language Arts.

## **Leadership**

To better support the Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment, Public Prep made important changes to strengthen the organization's central leadership team. To improve the support and supervision of principals, Public Prep unbundled some of the responsibilities of the CEO, putting day-to-day operations in the hands of the network's Academic Team. This department includes a superintendent, assistant superintendent of elementary schools, assistant superintendent middle schools, chief learning officer, chief data and technology officer, director of english language arts instruction, 3 ELA instructional coaches, director of math instruction, a math instructional coach, and a director of instructional technology.

## MATHEMATICS

### **Goal 2: Mathematics**

Girls Prep Bronx students will demonstrate steady progress in the understanding and application of mathematical skills and concepts.

### **Background**

At Girls Prep Bronx our goal is to offer a mathematically rich curriculum, providing students with opportunities to learn important mathematical concepts, skills, and procedures with deep understanding. Teachers draw from a variety of resources to engage students to think critically, problem solve, and master foundational skills including Investigations in Numbers, Data, and Space (Pearson), Contexts for Learning (Heinemann), and Engage NY as the key curriculum resources.

Girls Prep students engage in at least 80 minutes of math instruction daily in the elementary school and 55 minutes in the middle school in the areas of operations and algebraic thinking, numbers and operation (base ten and fractions) geometry, and measurement and data. The use of math centers to develop and reinforce mathematical concepts and skills is a critical component of the math workshop. In addition to a math workshop, students participate in solving complex word problems during “Cognitively Guided Instruction” (CGI). CGI serves as a daily opportunity for students to deeply consider number relationships, to apply relationships to computation strategies, and to discuss and analyze their reasoning. CGI supports the development of efficient, flexible, meaningful, and accurate computation strategies.

### **Goal 2: Absolute Measure**

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

### **Method**

The school administered the New York State Testing Program mathematics assessment to students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> grade in April 2017. Each student’s raw score has been converted to a grade-specific scaled score and a performance level.

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

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

Grade	Total Tested	<sup>5</sup> Not Tested			Total Enrolled
		IEP	ELL	Absent	
3	75	0	0	1	76
4	75	0	0	2	77
5	72	0	0	5	77
6	80	0	0	7	87
7	98	0	0	1	99
8	83	0	0	10	93
All	483	0	0	26	509

**Results**

38% of Girls Prep students enrolled in at least their second year were proficient on the NYS mathematics examination.

**Performance on 2016-17 State Mathematics Exam  
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grades	All Students		Enrolled in at least their Second Year	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	57%	75	58%	65
4	40%	75	41%	67
5	34%	72	33%	65
6	35%	80	34%	58
7	34%	98	35%	97
8	28%	83	29%	82
All	38%	483	38%	434

**Evaluation**

Girls Prep Bronx did not meet the accountability measure of 75 percent of students enrolled in at least their second year achieving proficiency.



## Additional Evidence

The below table indicates that the percentage of students in at least their second year achieving proficiency decreased by 2% from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

**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		2015-16	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	53%	70	55%	69	38%	68	58%	65
4	48%	63	49%	66	46%	72	41%	67
5	32%	57	36%	72	41%	66	33%	65
6	N/A	N/A	30%	66	40%	63	34%	58
7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21%	96	35%	97
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	29%	82
All	45%	190	43%	273	36%	365	38%	434

### 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 2016-17 mathematics AMO of 86. The PLI is calculated by adding the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 2 through 4 with the sum of the percent of all tested students at Levels 3 and 4. Thus, the highest possible PLI is 200.<sup>6</sup>

### Results

Girls Prep Bronx's performance index for mathematics was 114 in the 2016-17 school year. This exceeds the AMO of 86.

<sup>6</sup> In contrast to NYSED's Performance Index, the PLI does not account for year-to-year growth toward proficiency.

## Mathematics 2016-17 Performance Level Index (PLI)

Number in Cohort	Percent of Students at Each Performance Level			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
438	24%	38%	27%	11%

$$\begin{array}{rcccccccc}
 \text{PI} & = & 38 & + & 27 & + & 11 & = & 76 \\
 & & & & 27 & + & 11 & = & \underline{38} \\
 & & & & & & \text{PLI} & = & 114
 \end{array}$$

### Evaluation

Girls Prep Bronx exceeded the Annual Measurable Objective by 28 points in 2016-17.

### Goal 2: Comparative Measure

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

### Method

A school compares tested students enrolled in at least their second year to all tested students in the surrounding public school district. Comparisons are between the results for each grade in which the school had tested students in at least their second year at the school and the total result for all students at the corresponding grades in the school district.<sup>7</sup>

### Results

Students enrolled in at least their second year at Girls Prep Bronx outperformed those of their host district, NYC Community District 8.

### 2016-17 State Mathematics Exam Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		All District 8 Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
3	58%	65	30%	2125
4	41%	67	26%	2175
5	33%	65	30%	2207
6	34%	58	23%	2156
7	35%	97	19%	1904
8	29%	82	16%	2048
All	38%	434	26%	<b>12615</b>

<sup>7</sup> 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](#).

## Evaluation

Girls Prep Bronx met the accountability measure requiring that students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state mathematics exam to be greater than that of all students in the same tested grades in the local school district.

## Additional Evidence

The below table demonstrates that Girls Prep Bronx students have outperformed the students of the school's host district, District 8, in each of the last 4 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		2015-16	
	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8	Girls Prep Bronx	District 8
3	53%	26%	55%	28%	38%	27%	58%	30%
4	48%	28%	48%	25%	46%	30%	41%	26%
5	32%	28%	36%	29%	41%	23%	33%	30%
6	N/A	N/A	30%	21%	40%	22%	34%	23%
7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21%	18%	35%	19%
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	29%	16%
All	45%	27%	42%	26%	36%	24%	38%	26%

## Goal 2: Comparative Measure

Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state mathematics exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for students eligible for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State.<sup>8</sup>

## Method

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

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

## Results

In 2015-16, Girls Prep Bronx's aggregate effect size in mathematics was 0.32.

### 2015-16 Mathematics Comparative Performance by Grade Level

Grade	Percent of Economically Disadvantaged Students	Number of Students Tested	Percent of Students at Proficiency		Difference between Actual and Predicted	Effect Size
			Actual	Predicted		
3	82.9	73	37	33.7	3.3	0.15
4	88.3	74	45	29.6	15.4	0.77
5	90.8	71	39	22.9	16.1	0.84
6	82.6	103	30	25.8	4.2	0.21
7	75.7	98	21	23.5	-2.5	-0.13
8						
All	83.4	419	33.3	26.8	6.5	0.32

### School's Overall Comparative Performance:

Higher than expected to a meaningful degree

<sup>8</sup> The Institute will continue using *economically disadvantaged* instead of *eligibility for free lunch* as the demographic variable in 2013-14. Schools should report previous year's results using reported free-lunch statistics.

## Evaluation

In 2014-15, Girls Prep Bronx met this accountability plan goal. Girls Prep's effect size is not yet available for 2015-16, the year relevant to this analysis.

## Additional Evidence

Girls Prep Bronx has had a positive effect size for each of the last five years.

**Mathematics Comparative Performance by School Year**

School Year	Grades	Percent Eligible for Free Lunch	Number Tested	Actual	Predicted	Effect Size
2011-12	K-3	73.7	73	53.4	49.6	0.20
2012-13	K-4	90.0	147	32.0	22.4	0.57
2013-14	K-5	84.5	223	40.8	29.3	0.61
2014-15	K-6	84.5	325	40.0	26.8	0.72
2015-16	K-7	83.4	419	33.3	26.8	0.32

**Goal 2: Growth Measure<sup>9</sup>**

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

**Method**

This measure examines the change in performance of the same group of students from one year to the next and the progress they are making in comparison to other students with the same score in the previous year. The analysis only includes students who took the state exam in 2016-17 and also have a state exam score in 2015-16 including students who were retained in the same grade. Students with the same 2015-16 scores are ranked by their 2016-17 scores and assigned a percentile based on their relative growth in performance (mean growth percentile). Students’ growth percentiles are aggregated school-wide to yield a school’s mean growth percentile. In order for a school to perform above the statewide median, it must have a mean growth percentile greater than 50.

In 2016-17, Girls Prep Bronx’s mean unadjusted growth percentile was 55. This is lower than the state’s unadjusted median growth percentile of 50.0

**2016-17 Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level**

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile	
	School	Statewide Average
4	44	50
5	39	50
6	47	50
7	67	50
8	74	50
All	55	50

**Evaluation**

In 2016-17, Girls Prep Bronx did not meet this accountability plan goal.

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

## Mathematics Mean Growth Percentile by Grade Level and School Year

Grade	Mean Growth Percentile			
	2013-13	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
4		48.5	32	44
5		51.5	44	39
6		52	45	47
7		N/A	44	67
8		N/A	N/A	74
All		51	41	55

### Summary of the Mathematics Goal

We are committed to providing the resources needed for our students to become proficient mathematicians. Girls Prep Bronx is committed to a culture of continuous improvement where student achievement and success has no limit.

In 2016-17, Girls Prep Bronx achieved 4 out of the 5 possible measures for evaluation. Below we have outlined an action plan to implement in the coming year. This plan includes programs and processes that have proven to be successful and new strategies that address our observable gaps.

Like the overwhelming majority of charter schools in New York City, Girls Prep Bronx did not meet the goal of 75 percent proficiency in 2016-17. However, our growth data gives us confidence that we are on a predictive path to attaining that goal in the future.

Type	Measure	Outcome
Absolute	Each year, 75 percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year will perform at proficiency on the New York State mathematics exam for grades 3-8.	Did Not Achieve
Absolute	Each year, the school's aggregate Performance Level Index (PLI) on the state mathematics exam will meet that year's Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) set forth in the state's NCLB accountability system.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the percent of all tested students who are enrolled in at least their second year and performing at proficiency on the state mathematics exam will be greater than that of students in the same tested grades in the local school district.	Achieved
Comparative	Each year, the school will exceed its predicted level of performance on the state mathematics exam by an Effect Size of 0.3 or above (performing higher than expected to a small degree) according to a regression analysis controlling for economically disadvantaged students among all public schools in New York State. (Using 2012-13 school district results.)	Achieved
Growth	Each year, under the state's Growth Model the school's mean unadjusted growth percentile in mathematics for all tested students in grades 4-8 will be above the state's unadjusted median growth percentile.	Achieved

## **Action Plan**

### **Increased Instructional Time**

In Grades K-4, we implemented a new 30 minute problem-solving block. Students will spend this time critically engaging with a single rigorous question, developing their own strategies and discussing them with peers and as a whole class. We have contracted with Dr. Stephanie Smith to implement Cognitively Guided Instruction (CGI) “Number Talks” during this problem-solving block. CGI has previously been implemented by other NYC charter schools that have seen substantial growth in math achievement as a result.

### **Instruction**

The second key lever to drive academic improvement is to continue to refine our coaching and observation processes. This year, Girls Prep’s full-time instructional leaders include an ELA coach, two Directors of Curriculum and Assessment, and our principals, who are our primary instructional leaders. All of these individuals will regularly observe teachers and provide instructional feedback. Grade team leaders will also conduct informal observations and peer observations. All observations will utilize the Danielson framework as our model of excellent teaching.

Girls Prep has invested in the TeachBoost platform to improve the quality of observation, coaching and evaluation. All teachers will receive a minimum of 15 short and 5 long classroom observations from their coach, which is the average reported by top-quartile schools on TNTP’s Insight survey. Our coaching and observation program will also be supported through our partnership with TNTP. From the research literature on school improvement, we know that strong coaching and feedback is one of the highest-leverage strategies that a principal has to improve student achievement. TNTP will also organize Excellent School Visits to ensure our school leaders see best practice.

### **Data & Assessment**

Girls Prep Bronx teachers and instructional leaders routinely collect and analyze a wide variety of qualitative and quantitative data in order to improve curriculum and instruction. Students are assessed using curricular-aligned, performance-based assessments as measures of absolute performance. These rigorous assessments require synthesis and high-level application of knowledge from all subject areas. Student growth is measured using the NWEA MAP and STEP assessment. Throughout the year, students take interim assessments aligned with our scope and sequence in mathematics and in English Language Arts.

### **Leadership**

As outlined in the ELA action plan above, Public Prep has made added additional supports and made significant changes in network and school leadership with the aim of improving instructional leadership, adult learning, teacher coaching and development.



## SCIENCE

### **Goal 3: Science**

Girls Prep Bronx students will demonstrate proficiency relevant to achievement in science.

#### **Background**

Science at Girls Prep allows students to explore the world through a hands-on, inquiry based approach. Throughout their years in school students will study physical, life, and earth science. Every student at Girls Prep takes science every day, which is taught in our dedicated science labs by subject specific teachers.

Science in kindergarten explores topics such as the five senses, changes in plants and animals through the seasons, taking care of the earth and magnetism. First grade topics include astronomy, the human body, animal diversity, properties of matter (solids and liquids), and light and sound. In second grade, students use the scientific process to learn about simple machines life cycles, and the symbiotic relationship of plants and animals among other topics.

As students move on to third grade, they build on their early childhood learning. Third grade students at Girls Prep Bronx complete an in-depth study of inherited traits, meteorology, ecology, and force and motion. As fourth graders, students delve into animals and plants in their environment, discover the properties of water, explore electrical energy and magnetism, and understand the impact that natural events have on our world. Fourth graders end the year participating in the NYS Science Written and Performance Assessment that focuses on knowledge gained throughout their elementary science program.

In fifth grade, students study ecosystems, classify living things, study the roots of scientific theory, and explore the stars and the solar system. Students build their reading, writing, and inquiry skills as they engage in projects and hands-on labs.

In every grade, teachers integrate opportunities for students to read and write about the content, skills, and processes developed through their inquiry work. Teachers use Delta Education FOSS science, the state standards, and the Next Gen Science Standards as the key resources in planning instruction.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade in spring 2017. The school converted each student's raw score to a performance level and a grade-specific scaled score. The criterion for success on this measure requires students enrolled in at least their second year (defined as enrolled by BEDS day of the previous school year) to score at proficiency.

**Results**

77% of Girls Prep students enrolled in at least their second year were proficient on the NYS science examination.

**Charter School Performance on 2016-17 State Science Exam  
By All Students and Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year**

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		All District Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
4	97%	66	N/A	N/A
8	62%	84	N/A	N/A
All	77%	150	N/A	N/A

**Evaluation**

Girls Prep Bronx met this accountability plan goal.

**Additional Evidence**

Girls Prep Bronx has met this accountability goal in each year that its students have been eligible to take the Grade 4 science assessment.

**Science Performance by Grade Level and School Year**

Grade	Percent of Students Enrolled in At Least Their Second Year at Proficiency							
	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2015-16	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
4	81%	63	90%	67	99%	71	97%	66
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	62%	84
All	81%	63	90%	67	99%	71	77%	150

**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**

Students enrolled in at least their second year at Girls Prep Bronx performed higher in 2015-16 than those in their host district, District 8, performed. Comparative data for 2016-17 has not yet been published.

**2016-17 State Science Exam  
Charter School and District Performance by Grade Level**

Grade	Percent of Students at Proficiency			
	Charter School Students In At Least 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		District 8 Students	
	Percent	Number Tested	Percent	Number Tested
4	97%	66	N/A	N/A
8	62%	84	N/A	N/A
All	77%	150	N/A	N/A

**Evaluation**

Girls Prep Bronx met all accountability plan goals in science.

**Additional Evidence**

Girls Prep Bronx met this accountability goal in each year that it has taken the science test.

**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							
	2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2015-16	
	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District	Charter School	Local District
4	81%	79%	90%	78%	99%	83%	97%	N/A
8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	62%	N/A
All	81%	N/A	90%	78%	99%	83%	77%	N/A

**Summary of the Science Goal**

Currently, Girls Prep Bronx has met one out of two science goals in 2016-17. Science Scores for District 8 have not yet been released to the public. Although our performance was relatively strong, we are not satisfied with our results, and will seek to enhance our instructional program to improve them in 2017-18

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**

We will be looking critically at the alignment of our science curriculum to the Grade 4 NYS science test. Although we are confident that our curriculum covers all of the material necessary to succeed on the Grade 4 NYS science test, certain content areas may not receive appropriate emphasis or be taught in the appropriate sequence. We will seek to uncover and remedy any gaps in 2017-18.

## NCLB

### Goal 4: NCLB

The school will be in Good Standing each year.

### Goal 4: Absolute Measure

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

### Method

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

### Results

For the 2016-167 school year, Girls Prep Bronx was in Good Standing.

### Evaluation

Girls Prep Bronx met this accountability goal.

NCLB Status by Year

Year	Status
2011-12	Good Standing
2012-13	Good Standing
2013-14	Good Standing
2014-15	Good Standing
2015-16	Good Standing
2016-17	Good Standing

### Additional Evidence

Girls Prep Bronx has been in good standing for each year of the Accountability Period.

## Goal 5: Parent Satisfaction

### Goal 5: Absolute Measure

Each year, parents will express satisfaction with the school's program, based on the school's Parent Survey in which at least two-thirds of all parents/guardians provide a positive response to the survey items.

### Method

Girls Prep Bronx uses the NYC DOE school survey to gauge family satisfaction.

### Results

The parent response rate on the 2016-17 survey was 37%

#### 2016-17 Parent Satisfaction on Key Survey Results

Item	Satisfaction	Citywide Average
Rigorous Instruction	2.78	3.64
Collaborative Teachers	2.20	3.59
Effective School Leadership	2.00	3.44
Strong Family-Community Ties	2.99	2.67
Trust	2.21	3.40

### Evaluation

This outcome measure has been met by Girls Prep Bronx. The relationship between home and school is central to each child's success. At Girls Prep Bronx, we partner with families to provide maximum support to our students. Every year begins with a home visit by the student's teachers; this initial visit allows families and teachers to establish a relationship before the school year begins. We continue to build a partnership throughout the year and from year-to-year so that every child is supported and sees success.