



Persenaire Goals 2022 – 2023

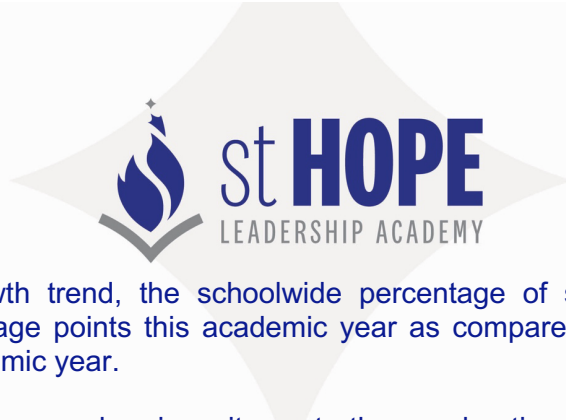
- Focus on improving ELA and Math performance – both growth and absolute by:
 - Working closely with the Literacy and Math Coaches to improve/monitor curriculum, assessments, data collection, data analysis and teacher development. Specifically:
 - Each grade and subject will increase the percentage of scholars at or above the 50th percentile as measured by MAP performance from September to May.
 - Each grade and subject will decrease the percentage of scholars below the 20th percentile as measured by MAP performance from September to May.
 - RIT growth in ELA and Math performance in each grade and subject will surpass national growth expectations as measured by MAP from September to May.
 - In ELA, the schoolwide percent of scholars considered College and Career Ready, as measured by Achieve3000, will surpass the increase achieved during the 2021-22 academic year.

The above goal is part of a 3-year goal to replicate the post-COVID benchmarks for growth established by the 2016-2019 cohort.

Reflection

Overall, we have made significant academic gains during the 2022-23 academic year, bearing witness to the acceleration that was our goal at the beginning of this academic year. Within all grades and all subjects, the number of scholars at or above the 50th percentile as measured by MAP performance from September to May increased. In 6th Grade ELA, the number of scholars on grade level increased from 28% to 31%, and in 6th Grade Math, the number of scholars on grade level increased from 17% to 21%. In 7th Grade ELA, the number of scholars on grade level increased from 33% to 39%, and in 7th Grade Math, the number of scholars on grade level increased from 22% to 24%. In 8th Grade ELA, the number of scholars on grade level increased from 33% to 36%, and in 8th Grade Math, the number of scholars on grade level increased from 16% to 25%. The percentage of students performing below the 20th percentile decreased across the board. In 6th Grade ELA, the percentage of scholars performing below the 20th percentile decreased from 33% to 26%. In 6th Grade Math, while the percentage (49%) remained the same, approximately 50% of students below the 20th percentile increased from performing below the 10th percentile to performing between the 11th and 19th percentiles, all students within this range far exceeding their individualized growth targets. In 7th Grade ELA, the percentage of scholars performing below the 20th percentile decreased from 32% to 30%, and in 7th Grade Math, the percentage of scholars performing below the 20th percentile decreased from 57% to 44%. When we administer the NWEA Spring MAP Assessment in 8th Grade, we occasionally observe testing fatigue. The percentage of students performing below the 20th percentile in 8th Grade Math increased slightly from 33% to 34%. However, 4 of 5 students in that category previously performed well above the 20th percentile and 1 performed at grade level. In 8th Grade Reading, even with this testing fatigue, the percentage of students performing below the 20th percentile decreased from 33% to 28%.

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Following a similar growth trend, the schoolwide percentage of scholars considered CCR increased by 17 percentage points this academic year as compared to 12 percentage points during the 2021-22 academic year.

To further articulate how we are bearing witness to the acceleration that was our goal, the RIT growth across all grades and subjects is astounding, particularly in 6th grade. In 6th Grade ELA, the NWEA norm for RIT growth from Fall to Spring is 5 points. Our 6th graders more than doubled that benchmark and increased by 11 points. In 6th Grade Math, the NWEA norm for RIT growth from Fall to Spring is 8 points. Our 6th graders far exceeded that benchmark and increased by 12 points. In 7th Grade ELA, the NWEA norm for RIT growth from Fall to Spring is 4 points. Our 7th graders nearly doubled that benchmark and increased by 7 points. In 7th Grade Math, the NWEA norm for RIT growth from Fall to Spring is 7 points, and our 7th graders exceeded that and increased by 8 points. In 8th Grade ELA, the NWEA norm for RIT growth from Fall to Spring is 4 points. Our 8th graders nearly doubled that benchmark and grew by 7 points. In 8th Grade Math, the NWEA norm for RIT growth from Fall to Spring is 5 points. Our 8th graders exceeded that and increased by 7 points.

- Successfully navigate financial uncertainties related to enrollment and end the year with a surplus.

Reflection

We began the 2023-2024 academic year with an approximately \$840,000 budget deficit due to an 18% decline in enrollment that exceeded the projected decline detailed when the budget was reviewed and approved in June. To ameliorate this somewhat anticipated additional enrollment decline, significant budget changes were required to balance the budget. These cuts were, again, completed without cutting staff or academic programs. In fact, in addition to other academic programs that continued, college trips and field trips resumed for the first time since 2019. Due to continued careful budget and grant management, we have a projected \$200,000 surplus as of the April finance report.

- Establish a recruitment and enrollment plan that will lead to full enrollment for the 2023 – 2024 academic year. Specifically:
 - Working closely with the Director of Operations to fully enroll 300 scholars by the first day of school by:
 - Establishing 2-3 new feeder elementary schools; and
 - Collecting 500 applications by the lottery deadline; and
 - Hiring an outside consultant who can guarantee minimum enrollment; and
 - Leading monthly and bi-monthly Open Houses.
 - Exploring other marketing strategies in addition to re-engaging North Star Marketing.
 - Enrolling 120 new 6th graders by June 30th.

If 500 applications are not received by the lottery deadline, the adjusted goal will be 500 applications by July 30th.

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Reflection

This year, I have worked closely with the new Director of Operations to meet our recruitment and enrollment goals. Specifically, we:

- Established 2 new feeder elementary schools
- Hired an outside consultant who is on track to meet their guarantee of fully enrolling a minimum of 20 new students
- Hosted monthly and bi-monthly Open Houses
- Explored new marketing strategies (bus/bus stop ads, student busing, etc), parting ways with North Star Marketing and engaging with a new marketing company that specializes in our school type.

As of June 9th, 67 prospective students are at various points towards being fully enrolled, 17 having accepted their seat but not started the enrollment process, 21 being in progress, and 29 having fully enrolled. 238 applications have been received to date.

While we did not collect 500 applications by the lottery deadline and are now pursuing the adjusted goal of 500 applications by July 30th, we are continually encouraged that, despite declining enrollment in public and charter schools across New York City, the number of students fully enrolled and applications received exceeds the numbers we observed at similar dates last year. As we invest multiple resources in achieving our desired enrollment (300), resources ranging from bus/bus stop ads to busing to additional feet on the ground, we are also very aware that the majority of students who have left our school community this year have moved out of the City, State, or Country. We are also very aware, as we review minutes from the Board of Regents' meetings, that a common revision to charters has been to lower enrollment.

As a result of this work and reflection, we based the 23-24 proposed budget on a projected enrollment of 250 to mirror more closely what we are seeing on the ground.

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