

IF YOU COULD SEND YOUR CHILD TO ANY
SCHOOL
WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?



Elm City Imagine - An AF “Greenfield” School

School & NHPS Partnership Overview

February 9, 2015

TONIGHT'S PRESENTATION

Part 1

Elm City Imagine School Design

Part 2

**Expressed Equity Concerns
(Students, Suspensions, Staff)**

Part 3

Elements of NHPS-AF Partnership



WHO IS ACHIEVEMENT FIRST?

Our students and schools are high-performing

- We were founded in New Haven 16 years ago, and, year after year, our New Haven students have met or exceeded state averages on the CMT – by that measure, we have closed the achievement gap.
- AF has been consistently ranked one of the top three charter operators in the country in terms of closing achievement gaps, college persistence, and other measures of student achievement.

Our schools are over-subscribed

- Amistad and Elm City elementary schools are consistently highly ranked choices for New Haven families. The schools are significantly over-subscribed with long wait lists, reflecting family interest in our schools.

We too have areas of growth

- As proud as we are of what our scholars have accomplished, we know we have more work to do to provide the excellence all our students and families really deserve. In particular, we have worked hard to reduce suspensions and re-balance our approach to discipline and are eager to continue that work.
- While we currently serve a significant number of high-needs students, we recognize that the choice process can create self-selection, and we therefore support more equitable enrollment practices .



**AN
EXCITING
NEW
AF
SCHOOL**

**STARTING
IN 2015 with
Kindergarten
& 1st Grade**

**ADDING A
GRADE
EACH YEAR
TO SERVE
preK-4**

Elm City Imagine Elementary



WHY DID WE CREATE THIS SCHOOL?

As proud as we are of the achievement of our current students and schools, we think we can do even better.

We set out on this design effort because we wanted to better leverage the power of technology, apply the new learnings from cognitive science, gather insights from our current students and parents, and leverage best practices across the country.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ELM CITY IMAGINE STUDENT





GOALS & MORNING MOTIVATION





**SMALL
GROUP
READING
& MATH**





**DANCE
MARTIAL ARTS
MUSIC**

**STEM
INVENTIONS**



Students will have two different enrichment periods every day,
one of which is physical fitness



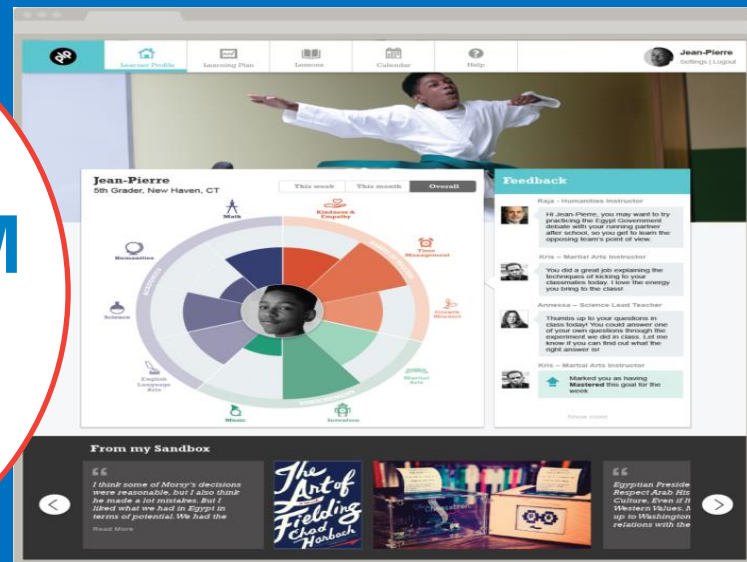


HUMANITIES & SCIENCE



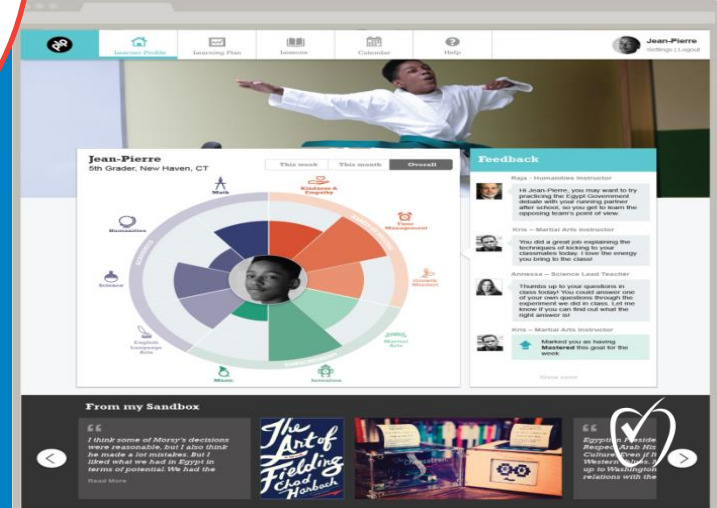


GOAL-TEAM TIME





SELF-DIRECTED LEARNING



A TYPICAL DAY

Breakfast	7:15am - 7:40am
Morning Motivation	7:40am - 7:55am
Phonics	7:55am - 8:40am
Small Group Reading	8:40am - 9:40am
Small Group Math	9:40am - 10:40am
Dance (M-Th) / Martial Arts (Tues – Fri)	10:40am - 11:20am
Lunch and Goal Team Time	11:20am - 12:20pm
Humanities	12:20pm - 1:20pm
Self-Directed Learning / Stations	1:20pm - 2:20pm
Self-Directed Learning / Stations	2:20pm - 3:20pm
Science	3:20pm - 4:00pm
STEM / Robotics (M-Th) or Music (Tues –Fri)	4:00pm - 4:40pm
Community Time and Dismissal	4:40pm - 5:00pm

* Based on parent feedback, we are re-working the schedule to allow for some or all kindergarteners to be able to leave at 4:00 PM.



**WHAT ELSE WILL
MAKE ELM CITY
IMAGINE A GREAT
SCHOOL FOR KIDS
AND FAMILIES?**





EXPEDITIONS
EVERY 8
WEEKS



A group of approximately ten diverse people of various ages and ethnicities are captured in mid-air, jumping joyfully in a lush green field under a clear blue sky. They are wearing colorful clothing like red, purple, yellow, and blue shirts. The overall mood is one of happiness and community.

DREAM
TEAMS

RUNNING
PARTNERS

AWESOMELY
POWERFUL
COMMUNITY

EXHIBITIONS
&
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

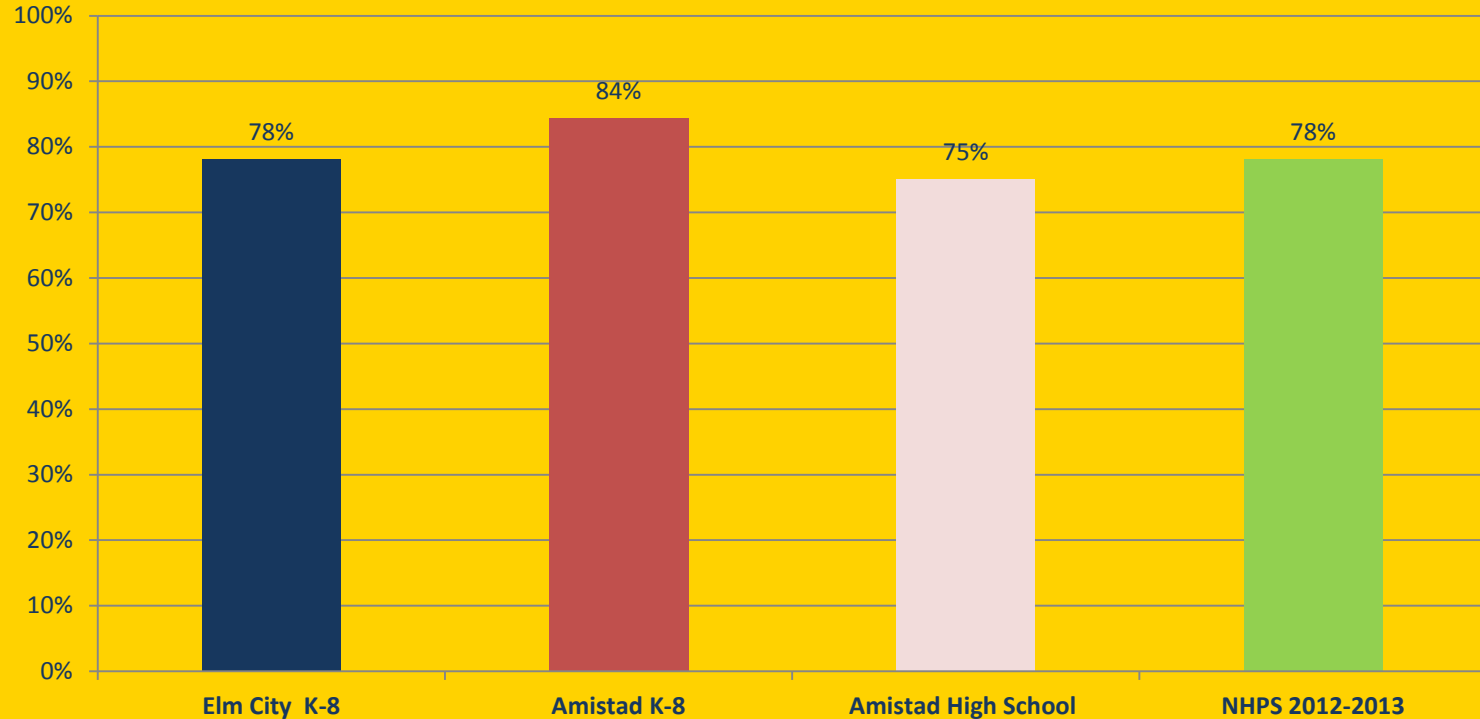
GOAL
COACHES
& GOAL
TEAMS



PART 2:
Expressed Equity
Concerns
(Students, Suspensions,
Staff)

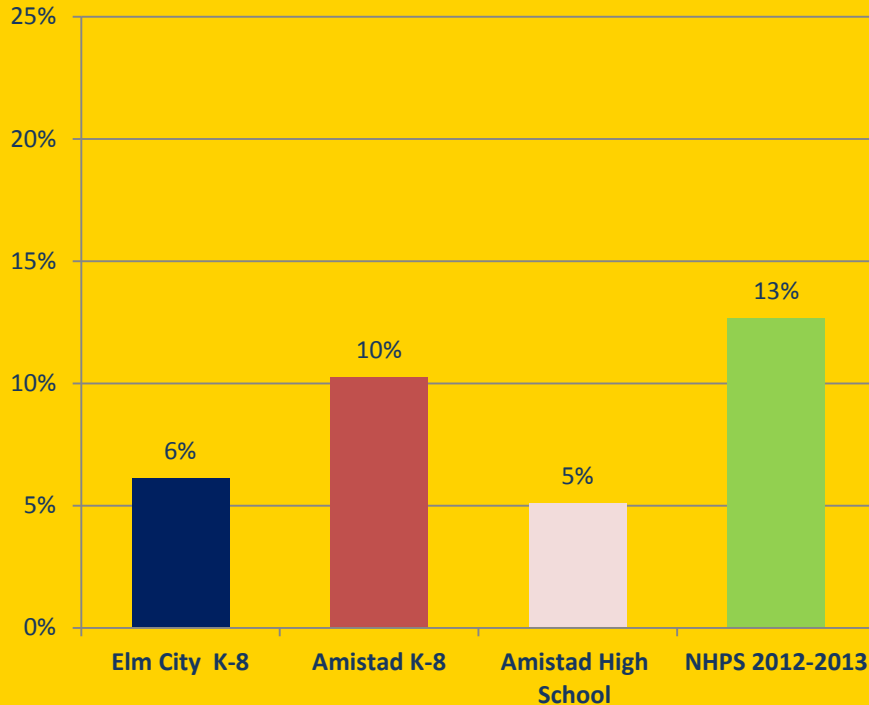


WHO WE SERVE : % Free or Reduced Lunch



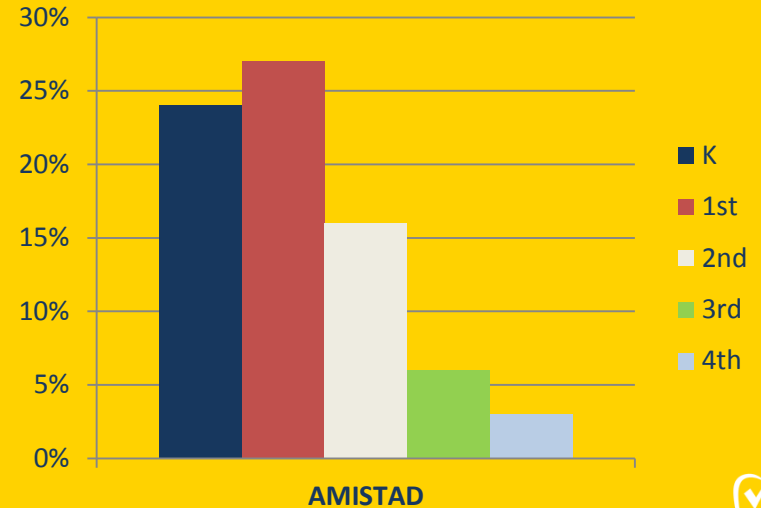
WHO WE SERVE: ELL Students

English Language Learners 2013-2014



NOTE: In order to classify as ELL, you need to (1) have a dominant home language that is not English and (2) fail an English reading, writing, and speaking test. Once we teach students to speak and read English, they are no longer ELL.

ELL % 2014-15



Systematic & explicit instruction

Reading & writing in authentic contexts

**TARGETED
ESOL
PROGRAMMING**

Phonological awareness

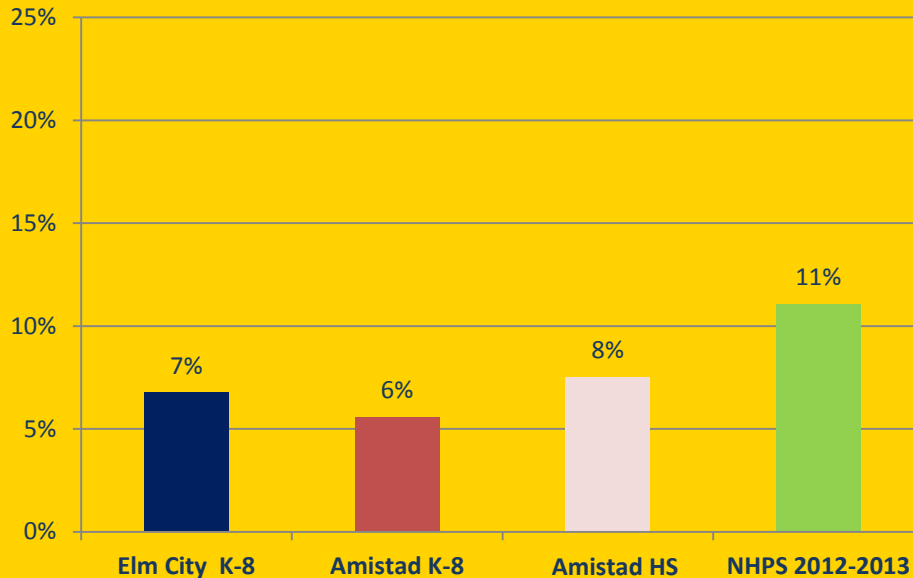
Supplemental bilingual text

Vocabulary
&
Comprehension Strategies

Text free programming &
use of non-verbal cues

WHO WE SERVE: SPED Students

Special Education 2013-2014



- We serve a significant number of education students – although a lower percentage than NHPS. Some of this may be due to lower-levels of identification.
- We have worked hard over the last several years to improve our special education supports. We have had a long-standing dispute with NHPS about special education funding and are grateful that this proposed partnership will finally provide sped funding to our sped students equal to those in the district based on student need.
- NOTE: We have 5.2% of students with 504 plans, and NHPS has 4.8%



**INCLUSION
THROUGH
CO-TEACHING**

**AF's
SPECIAL
EDUCATION
APPROACH**

**ROBUST
ACADEMIC
INTERVENTION**

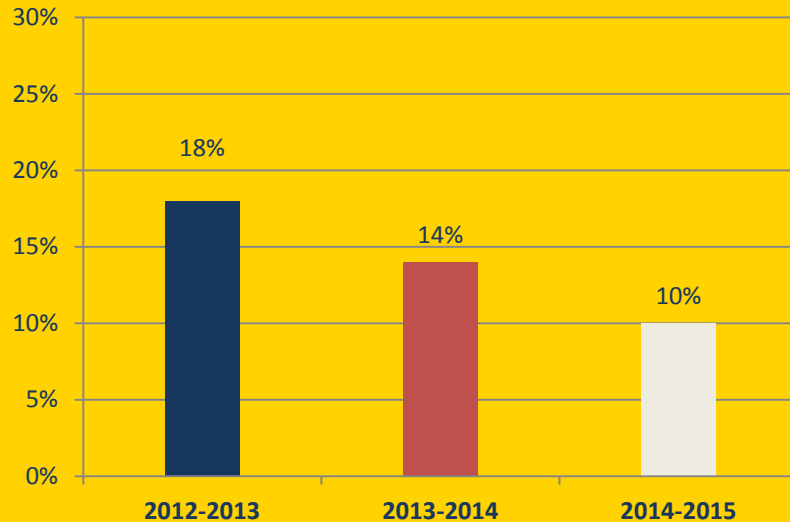
**SUPPLEMENTAL
SMALL GROUP
INSTRUCTION**

**SYSTEMATICALLY
INTENSIFYING
BEHAVIORAL
SUPPORTS**



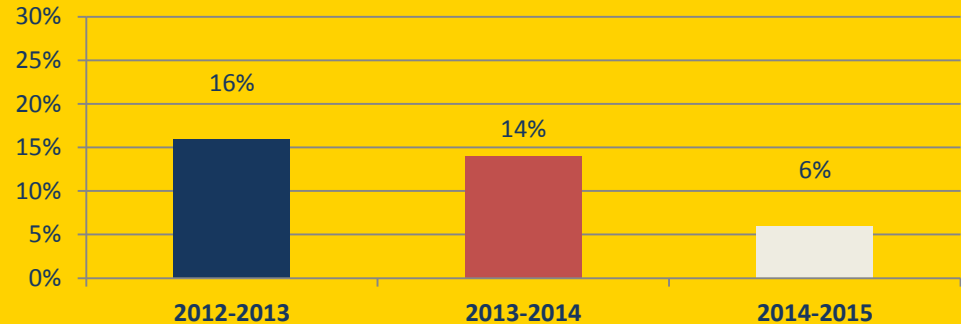
STUDENT SUSPENSIONS: (ISS AND OSS)

AF Network-Wide

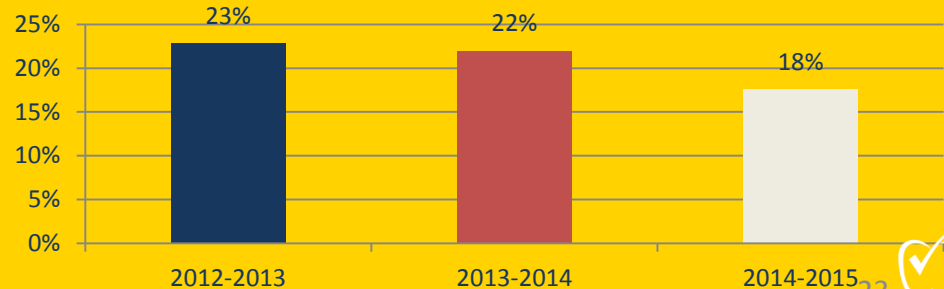


Note: Data shows percent of students suspended (in-school or out-of-school) as of January 14 each school year.

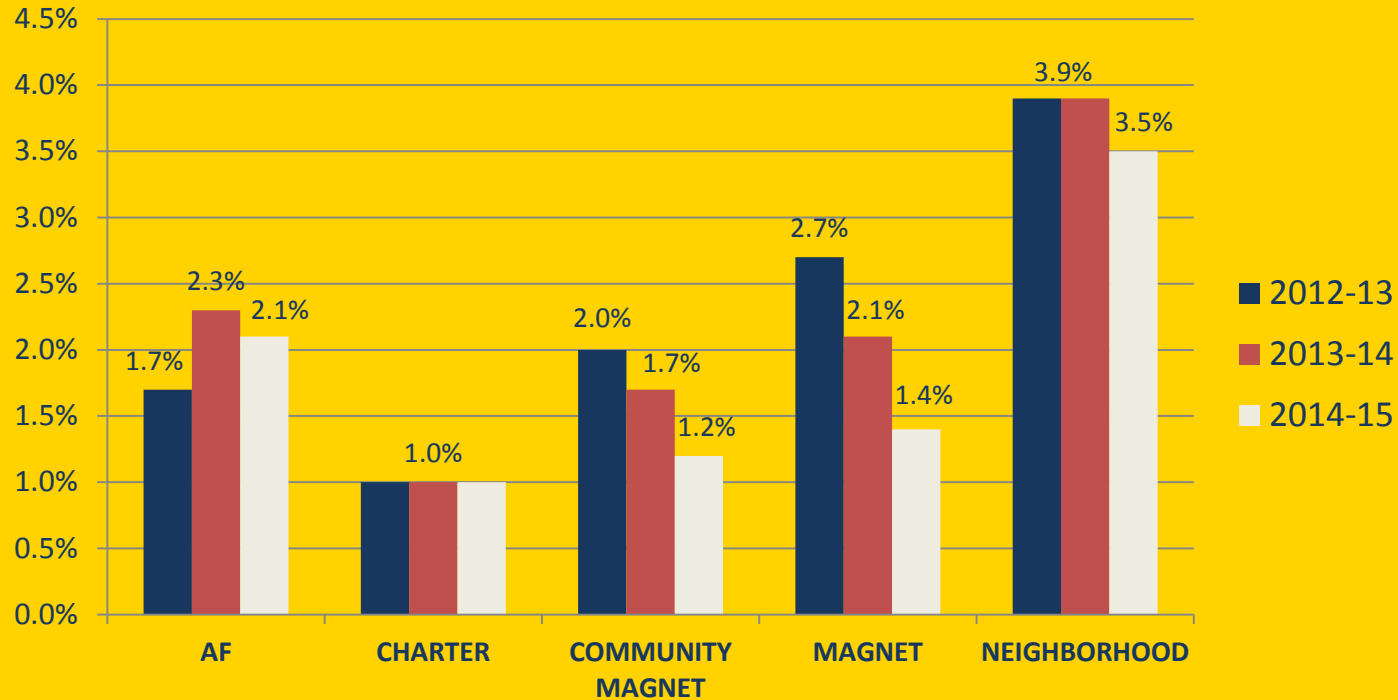
Elm City



Amistad K-8

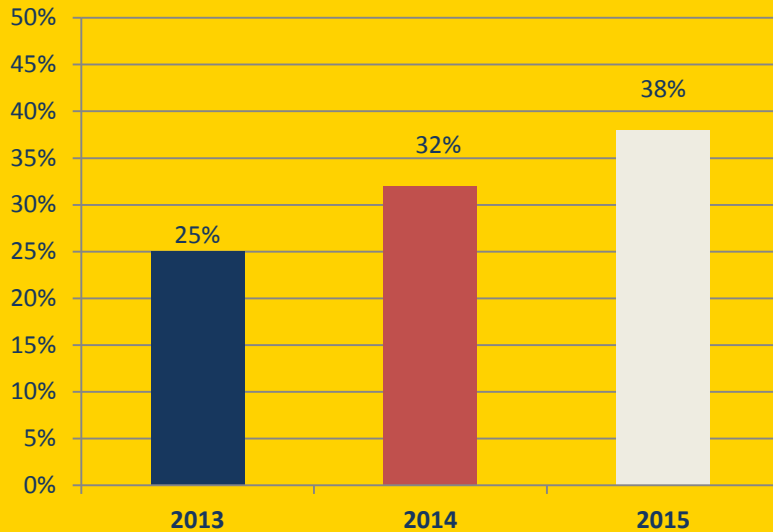


STUDENT TRANSFERS OUT

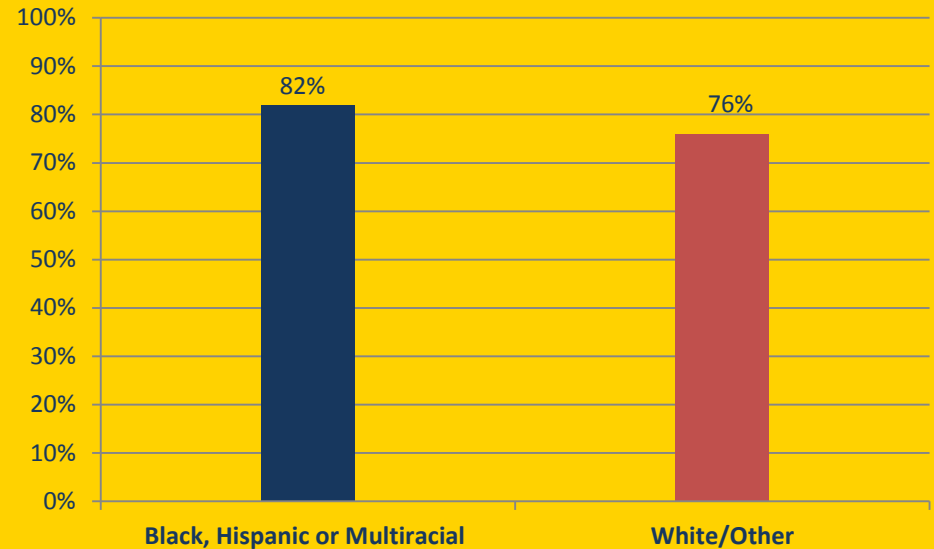


WHO WE ARE: Staff Demographics – AF New Haven School Staff

Black, Latino or Multi-racial Staff*



2013-2014 Staff Retention



**Data excludes staff who declined to self-identify race/ethnicity.*

PART 3: ELEMENTS OF AF-NHPS PARTNERSHIP



STUDENT RECRUITMENT

Enhanced Commitment To Serving High Needs Students

Proactive outreach for all available seats

Targeted outreach

- English Language Learners
- New Haven Public School Pre-Kindergarten programs
- New Haven Housing Authority
- Connecticut Department of Children and Families

Application Process

All families from New Haven Pre-K and Early Childhood programs who do not make another choice will default into the AF lotteries and given the chance to “opt out” if they are admitted.



STUDENT ENROLLMENT

Enhanced Commitment To Serving High Needs Students

Commitment to **filling all empty seats in lottery grades** (currently grades K-9) whenever they become available, including in the middle of the school year.

Commitment to working with NHPS to ensure **students only leave school mid-year under exceptional circumstances:**

- Up-front messaging to families about importance of thoughtful, annual choice
- Parents who do seek mid-year transfer will need to apply and have that request reviewed by joint NHPS-AF panel,
- Panel will attempt to problem-solve and mediate, including recommendations on school practices and relationship building; panel will recommend and Superintendent will approve mid-year transfer only in compelling circumstances
- Data and trends will be public with required AF and NHPS response



COLLABORATION

Establish a **Practice Sharing and Innovation Forum** to facilitate reflection and best practice sharing – 2 hosted by NHPS, 1 by AF every year, including deep dive school visit to see best practices in action

Seek **partnership around philanthropic resources**

Promise to **refrain from direct public criticism** of one another

AF to participate in **NHPS Restorative Practices Program** in support of differentiating AF classroom and school practices.

AF school data, including funding, included alongside other school data in NHPS **Annual Summative School Portfolio Reporting**



FINANCIAL IMPACT

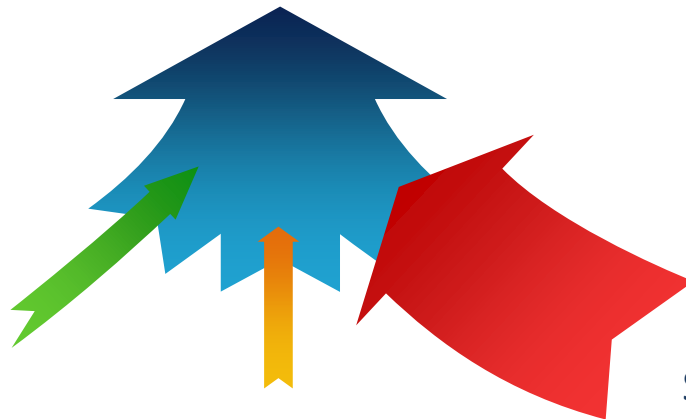
- **Increase in total resources for New Haven students:** As a public, state charter school, the bulk of funding for this project will come from the state. There will be \$11,000 in new state money for each of the 550 students, resulting in \$6 million additional to serve New Haven students.
- **NHPS class size investment:** Elm City Imagine will serve approximately 90 students/grade, allowing NHPS to reduce class size in 5-9 high challenge schools by approximately 3 students per class. It would cost \$4 million to accomplish this if NHPS was to do this on its own.
- **Equity:** After detailed exploration of relative funding and expenses, school operating resources are comparable between NHPS and AF. However, AF does not receive the same level of support for capital/facility expenses. NHPS would therefore offer in-kind and contracted services of \$700 per pupil as a partial contribution to what AF will be spending to provide a facility for these students.



Support necessary to launch Elm City Imagine

Required Local

NHPS to provide
mandated Special
Education and
Transportation



Facilities Support

\$700 per pupil that NHPS would provide
either in-kind or as contract

State Support

\$11,000 per pupil as a
state public charter
school.

Bottom Line: This represents a net increase in resources for New Haven students. If these students stay with NHPS, the district will spend this money – and much more – to educate them.

Protective Trigger: NHPS support will end if state or city funding models change in a way that disadvantages NHPS.