Abstract

Project Goals: AF is a charter management organization operating 17 schools serving 4,500 students in Connecticut and New York. The goals of project are (1) to provide 5,500 additional students with the achievement gap-closing education they need to graduate from college, and (2) to prove that the achievement gap can be closed at district scale.

Expect Outcomes: AF’s project outcomes are: (1) serve 10,000 students in 31 schools; (2) close the achievement gap for EDS and racial/ethnic subgroups; (3) demonstrate 90 percent or higher high school graduation, college acceptance and college matriculation rates; (4) maintain student attendance rate of 96 percent and student retention rate of 95 percent; and (5) operate within a sustainable budget.

Project Contributions: AF’s impact extends beyond its students through partnerships with reform-oriented organizations and districts to inform district- and state-wide reform efforts.

Project Compliance: AF has already successfully grown a network of 17 schools serving more than 4,500 students enrolled by blind lottery from its host districts. At per pupil costs equal to or less than its host districts, AF has raised achievement levels of all students, including EDS and historically disadvantaged subgroups, to meet or exceed state performance standards.