



## SCHOOL OVERVIEW

The mission of Achievement First Brooklyn High School, a college-preparatory public charter school in Brooklyn, New York, is to provide historically underserved students with a top-quality education geared to prepare them for the rigors of college work and help them flourish on college campuses. AF Brooklyn High's approach includes an extended school day and year, a rigorous, college-preparatory course of study, tutoring, intensive college counseling, explicit character education, and robust athletic and elective programs.

The school's college-readiness framework, modeled after the work of David Conley, a researcher at the University of Oregon, includes four pillars:

- **Key Cognitive Skills** An emphasis on the transferable strategies critical to college-level work equips students with the ability to confront complex problems, interpret evidence and effectively communicate verbally and in writing.
- **Content Knowledge** A rigorous curriculum ensures that students master core academic content, such as the impact of important historical movements and the literary and rhetorical devices authors commonly employ, preparing them for success in college-level courses.
- **Self-Management** A sharp focus on self-awareness, self-monitoring and self-control helps students build foundations for academic persistence and success.
- **College Knowledge** A deep understanding of college application and financial aid processes equips students with the tools they need to make informed college choices and thrive academically and socially on college campuses.

## ACADEMIC RIGOR

AF Brooklyn High's school day allows for a rigorous, high-expectations curriculum built with a heavy emphasis on core academic subjects and the foundational skills essential for college success. The academic day at AF Brooklyn High runs from 7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., two hours longer than the traditional New York City public school day. Students also attend classes for nearly two weeks longer than their peers at traditional district public schools.

Students develop the ability to navigate complex texts, write cogently and convincingly, and form complex and persuasive evidence-based arguments in many ways:

- A heavy emphasis on the following core academic subjects: literature, composition, history, math and science. Students are required to take four full years of coursework in each of these subjects.
- In every class and in every discipline, students employ advanced analytical thinking skills as they identify, gather and mold evidence through reading, writing and discussion. Students regularly attend seminar-format classes, developing and discussing in-depth responses to open-ended questions.
- Students practice reading and annotation strategies through frequent, multi-draft, evidence-based essays, honing their ability to marshal evidence in support of a thesis and to clearly articulate ideas. The faculty employs common rubrics for annotation, seminars and persuasive writing to ensure a consistent focus across the school on these foundational skills.
- All students take at least one Advanced Placement course and approximately half of the school's students take two or more AP courses.

## SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

AF Brooklyn High serves predominantly African-American students from historically underserved communities in Brooklyn, a borough facing challenges including high rates of crime and entrenched, multi-generational poverty. Approximately 40% of AF Brooklyn High students will be the first in their families to attend a four-year college or university.

### STUDENT POPULATION

Class of 2013 Student Enrollment	32
Total Enrollment for 2012-13	320
Graduation Rate	n/a
Average Daily Attendance	98%
Free / Reduced Lunch Eligible	77%
Latino	5.4%
African-American	93.2%
White	0%
Male	40%
Female	60%

### FACULTY

Faculty	39
Administrative Staff	5
Faculty with Advanced Degrees	64%

## HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS

AF BROOKLYN HIGH CLASS OF 2013 COURSE OF STUDY				
Subject	Freshman Year	Sophomore Year	Junior Year	Senior Year
Literature	Literature I	Literature II	American Literature	Language and Literature / AP Language and Literature
Composition	Composition I	Composition II	Composition III	Composition IV
Mathematics	Algebra I / Geometry	Geometry / Algebra II	Algebra II / Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus / AP Calculus
History	Global History	Global History II	US History	Civics & Government
Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	AP Biology
Foreign Language			Latin I	Spanish I / Latin I / Latin II
College Readiness		College Readiness I	College Readiness II	College Readiness III
Physical Education	Note: Students must earn one credit in art and one credit in physical education.			
Art				

### GRADING POLICY

AF Brooklyn High uses a 100-point grading scale, with 70 as the minimum grade to pass a course and 50 as the lowest published grade. Weighted Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated as the arithmetic average (total quality points divided by credits) of all weighted courses taken.

### GRADING PHILOSOPHY

Achievement First Brooklyn High's faculty, across all disciplines, commits to holding extremely high expectations for intellectual contribution and academic product in grades nine through 12. By ensuring that the grading systems and policies mirror those of the nation's most elite secondary schools, faculty protect against grade inflation. As and Bs are hard-earned and faculty strive to foster a culture of re-do and re-learn for graded work that has not met expectations. Consequently, while AF Brooklyn High students may have overall lower GPAs than their traditional district peers, this is not a reflection of their academic tenacity or ultimate mastery. Rather, it is a reflection of the high expectations to which students are held.

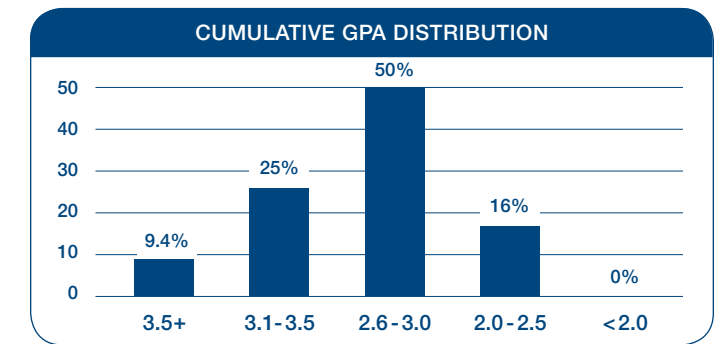
\* Students are required to pass four full-year composition courses **and** four full-year literature courses.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS		
Subject	State of New York Requirements	AF Brooklyn HS Requirements
English	4	8*
Math	3	4
History	4	4
Science	3	4
Foreign Language	1	1
PE	2	2
Arts	1	1
Electives	3	3
<b>Total Credits Required for Graduation</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>27</b>

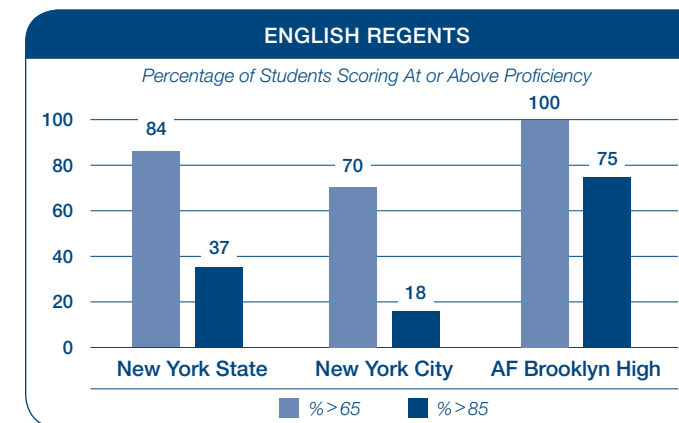
GRADING SCALE		
Course Grade	Standard Course Weighting	AP / College Course Weighting
A+ (97-100)	4.33	5.33
A (93-96)	4.0	5.0
A- (90-92)	3.66	4.66
B+ (87-89)	3.33	4.33
B (83-86)	3.0	4.0
B- (80-82)	2.66	3.66
C+ (77-79)	2.33	3.33
C (73-76)	2.0	3.0
C- (70-72)	1.66	2.66
F (0-69)	0	0

## GRADE DISTRIBUTION

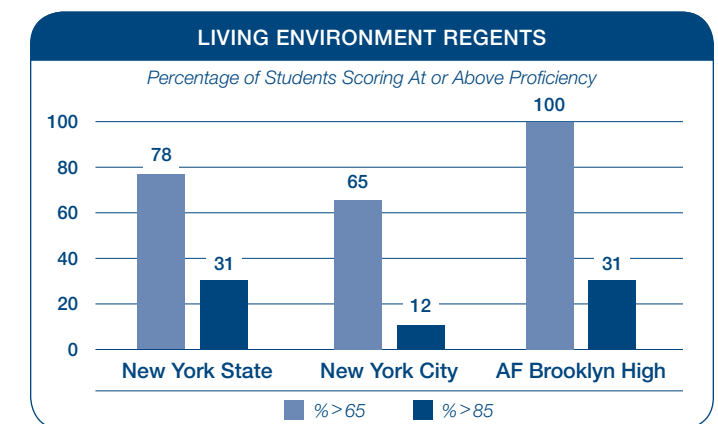
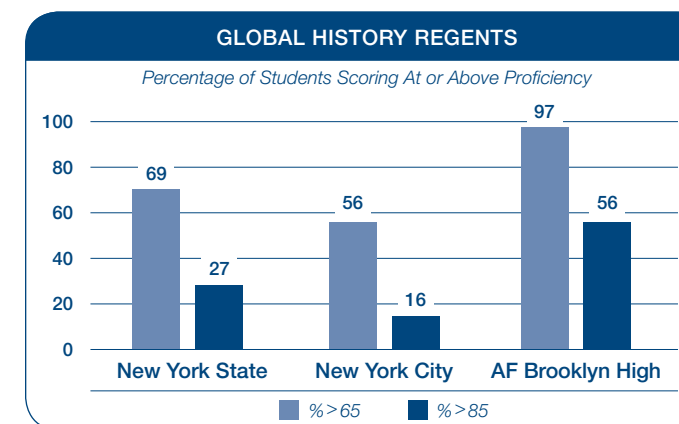
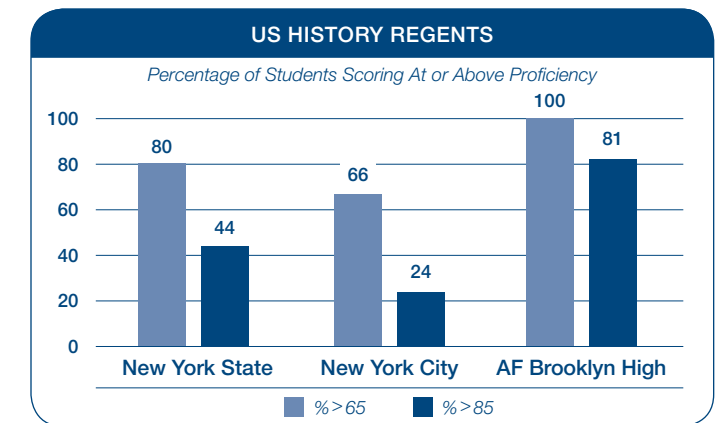
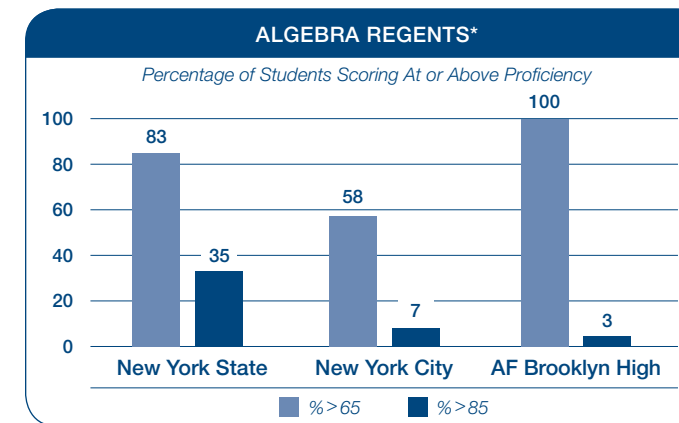
CLASS OF 2013 GRADE DISTRIBUTION					
Subject	3.5+	3.1-3.5	2.6-3.0	2.0-2.5	<2.0
Composition	3%	44%	34%	19%	0%
Literature	3%	41%	53%	3%	0%
History	19%	69%	13%	0%	0%
Science	13%	44%	34%	9%	0%
Mathematics	6%	56%	28%	9%	0%



## STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS: REGENTS EXAMS

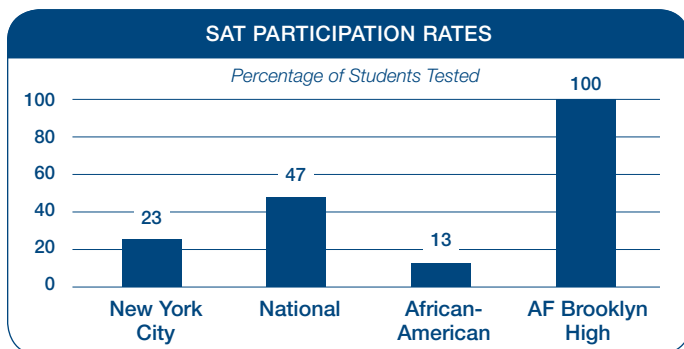
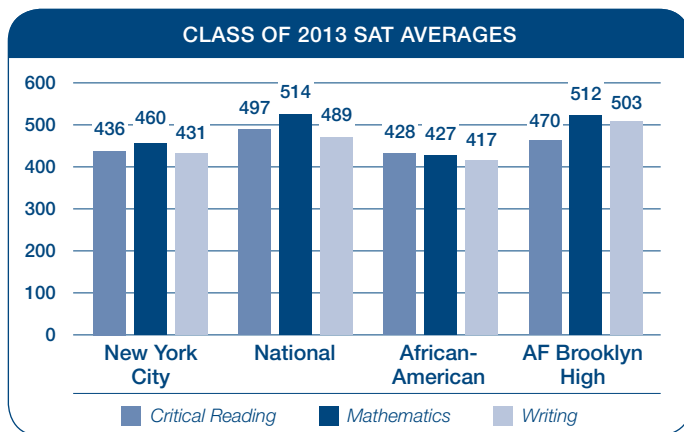


All of our students take the Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Living Environment, Chemistry, Physics, English Language Arts, Physics, Global History and American History Regents exams. Further, all of our scholars must score 70% or 75% in each subject in order to graduate.



\* The majority of these students took the Algebra Regents exam in 8th grade. 43% of these same students scored above an 85 on the Algebra II Regents in 11th grade.

## STANDARDIZED TEST RESULTS: SAT



## BEYOND ACADEMICS

AF Brooklyn High students exhibit personal growth and contribute to the vitality of the small school community through actively participating in electives and after school programs. All students take elective courses that are embedded in the school day. In addition, 75% of AF Brooklyn High students participate in at least one extracurricular activity.

**SUMMER PROGRAMS** During their high school careers, members of the class of 2013 will participate in at least three summer enrichment programs, allowing them to augment their rigorous academic experience with exploratory learning experiences beyond the classroom. The broad array of summer opportunities are crucial to AF Brooklyn High's mission: they foster college persistence by pushing students beyond their comfort zones as they engage in experiences and discover traits and preferences that allow them to make informed college decisions around choices of major, career and social affiliation. All AF Brooklyn High students are required to complete summer programs after 9th, 10th and 11th grades. 45% of the class of 2013 participated in a pre-college summer program; 70% of the class of 2013 participated in a summer internship.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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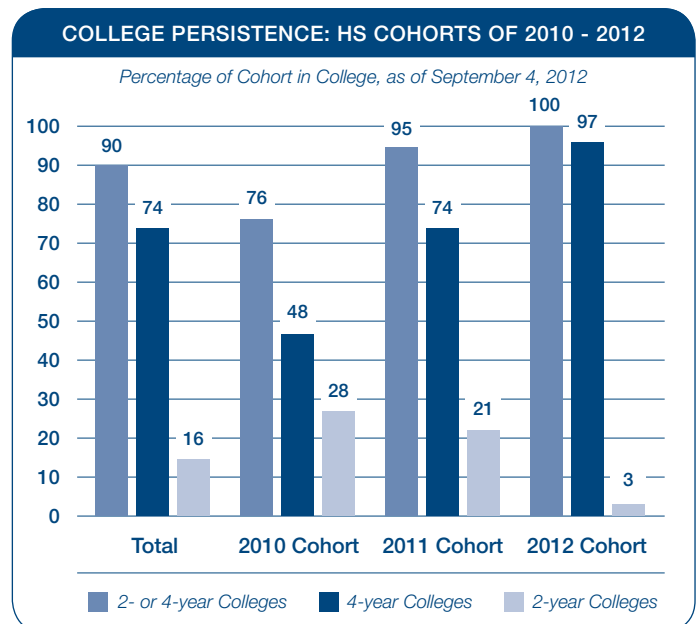
## COLLEGE MATRICULATION & PERSISTENCE

Nationally, only 8.3% of low-income students graduate from four-year colleges within six years of high school graduation.

With this in mind, AF Brooklyn High measures its success not against college acceptance or matriculation rates, but on college persistence and graduation rates. Through hard work, Achievement First students are combatting this national inequity; **90% of Achievement First high school graduates persist in college.**

AF Brooklyn High supports college persistence and graduation by:

- Fostering true college readiness through a rigorous course of study rooted in key content, a pedagogical emphasis on college-ready habits of mind, and a robust early college awareness and counseling program.
- Preparing all students for the transition to college, giving guidance during the matriculation process and enrolling all seniors in a "Transition to College" course prior to graduation to address topics such as registering for classes and understanding the resources their campuses offer.
- Once seniors graduate, the program provides individualized support to alumni enrolled in college via regular email and phone contact, visits and by helping them connect with campus resources. The alumni counselor strives to build relationships with key faculty at colleges in order to help alumni make contact with "champions" who can help them navigate complex campus systems and learn to advocate for themselves.



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