



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

Goals & Guardrails Progress Monitoring

Goal 4: High School Algebra, Literature, & Biology

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High School Performance



Tonight you'll hear about:

- End of year 2023-24 Keystone Best by 11th data for Literature, Algebra and Biology
- Within-year data to help us understand **if we are heading in the right direction:**
 - Keystone performance by 10th grade
 - Star Reading and Star Math in grades 9-11
 - 9th Grade Firmly On Track
- Strategic Actions and additional initiatives
 - What we've done so far
 - Our focus going forward



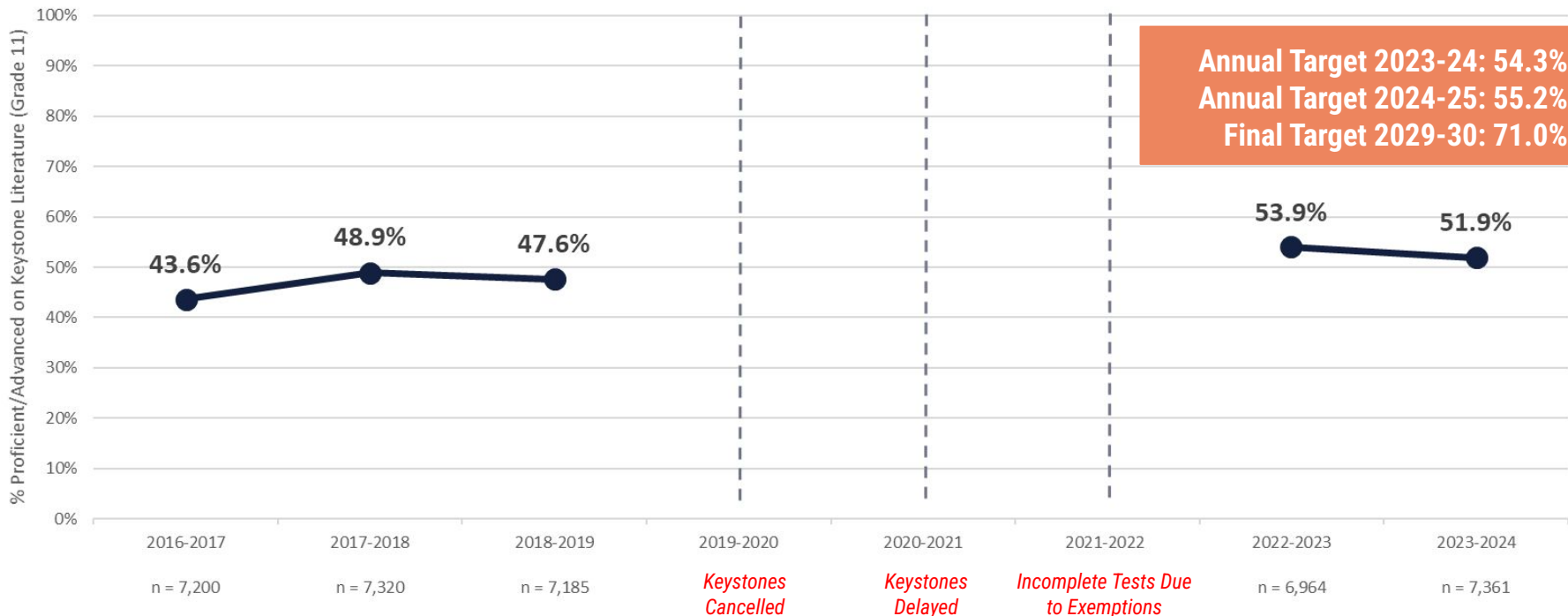
High School Performance

Goal 4

Keystone Literature
Best by 11th Grade

The percentage of students in grade 11 who scored **Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Literature** decreased from 53.9% in 2022-23 to 51.9% in 2023-24 (**-2.0 percentage points**).

Keystone Literature Proficiency Rate (Best by 11th)



District and Alternative students.

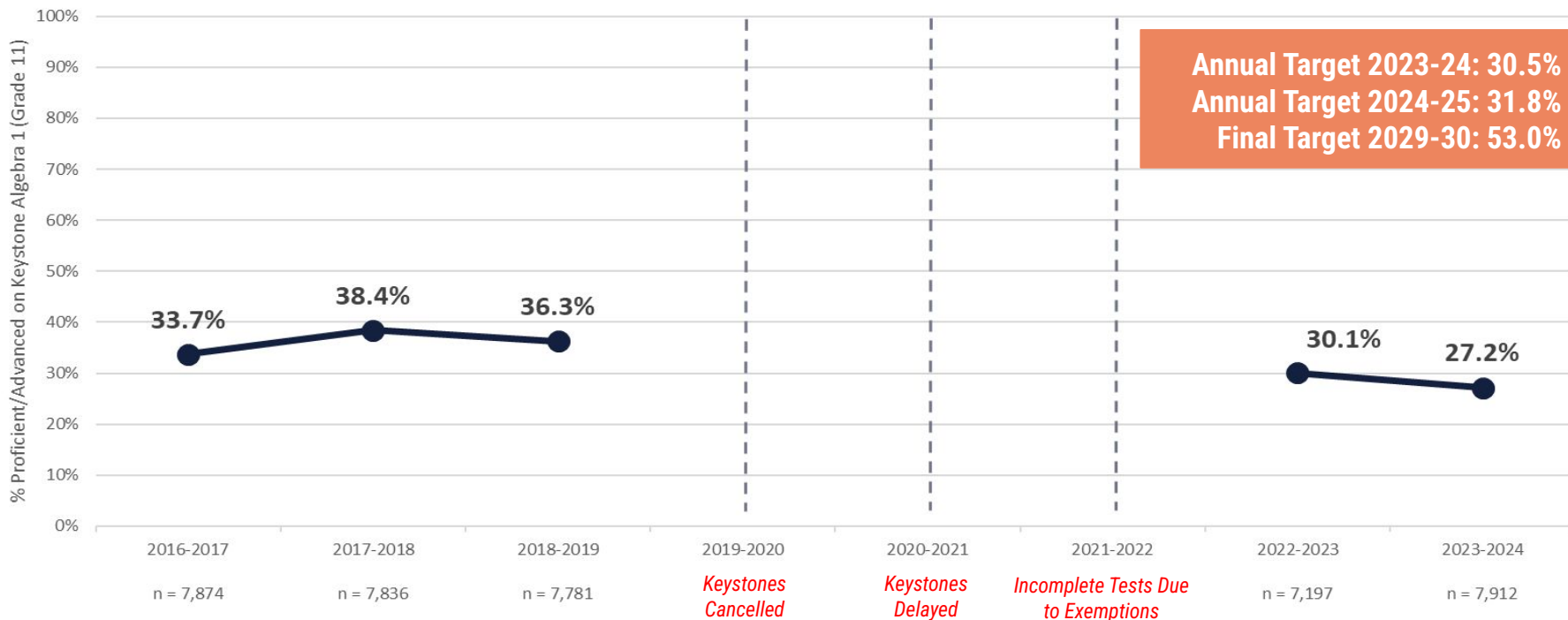
The "n" count for each year indicates how many total students took Keystone Literature exams.

Goal 4

Keystone Algebra 1
Best by 11th Grade

The percentage of students who scored **Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Algebra** by 11th grade declined from 30.1% in 2022-23 to 27.2% in 2023-24 (**-2.9 percentage points**).

Keystone Algebra 1 Proficiency Rate (Best by 11th)



District and Alternative students.

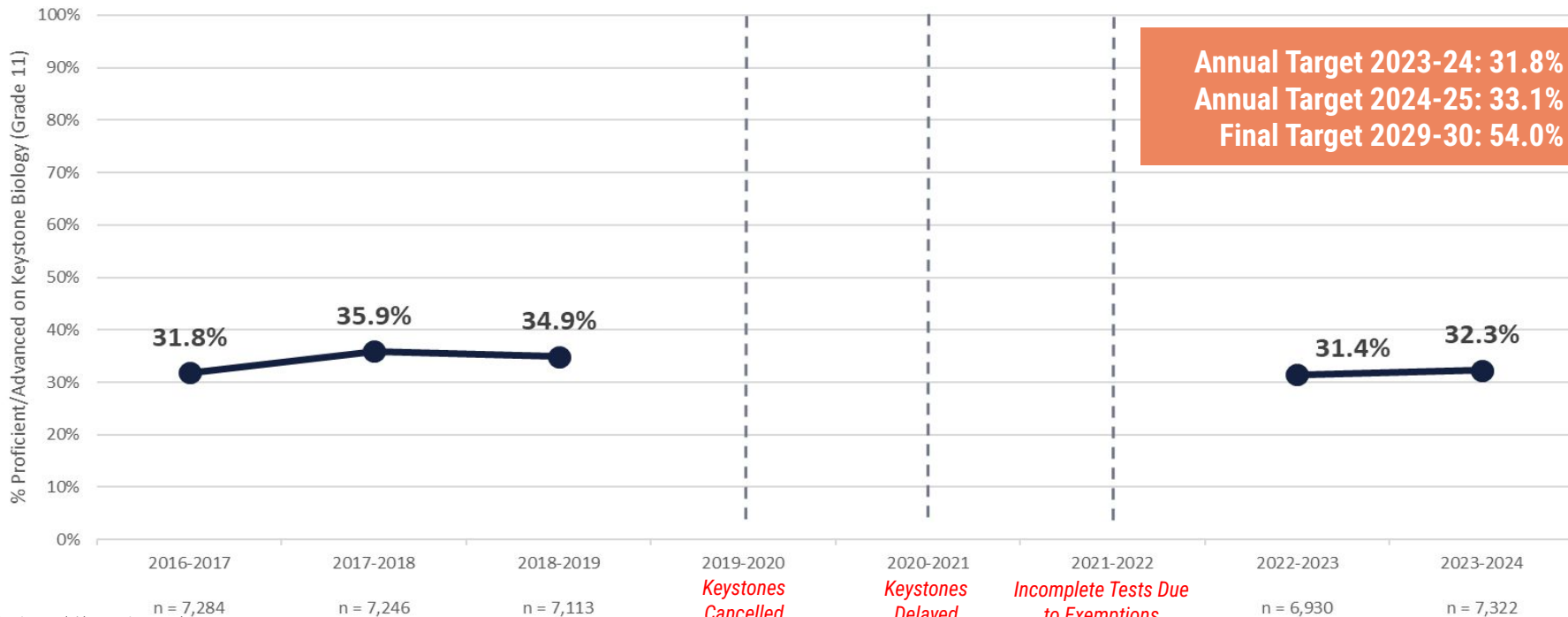
The "n" count for each year indicates how many total students took Keystone Algebra I exams.

Goal 4

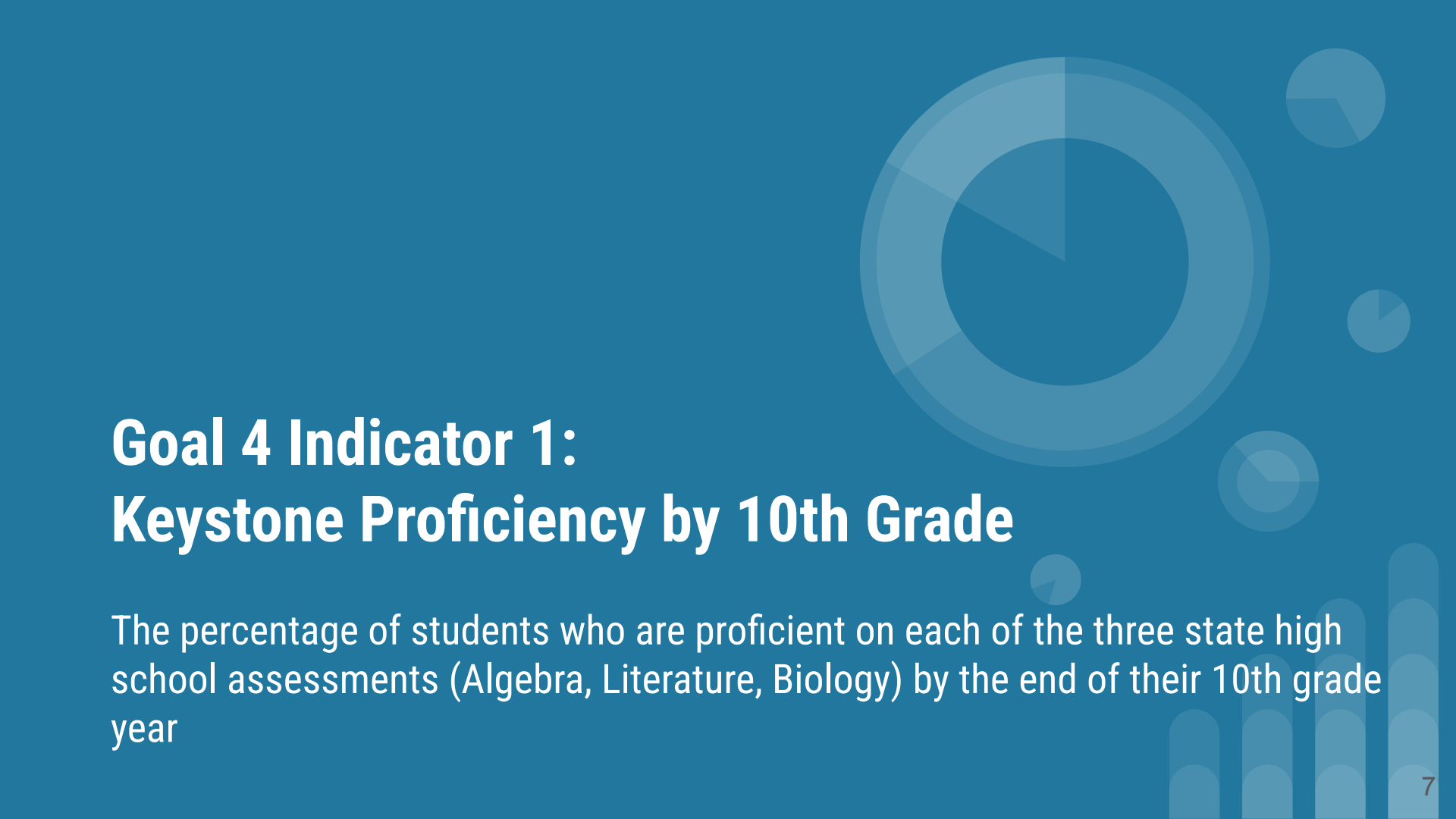
Keystone Biology
Best by 11th Grade

The percentage of students who scored **Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Biology** by 11th grade increased from 31.4% in 2022-23 to 32.3% in 2023-24 (+0.9 percentage points).

Keystone Biology Proficiency Rate (Best by 11th)



District and Alternative students.
The "n" count for each year indicates how many total students took Keystone Biology exams.

The background is a solid blue color. It features several decorative elements: a large, semi-transparent pie chart in the upper right quadrant, and a bar chart in the bottom right corner with five vertical bars of varying heights. There are also several smaller, semi-transparent pie charts scattered throughout the right side of the page.

Goal 4 Indicator 1: Keystone Proficiency by 10th Grade

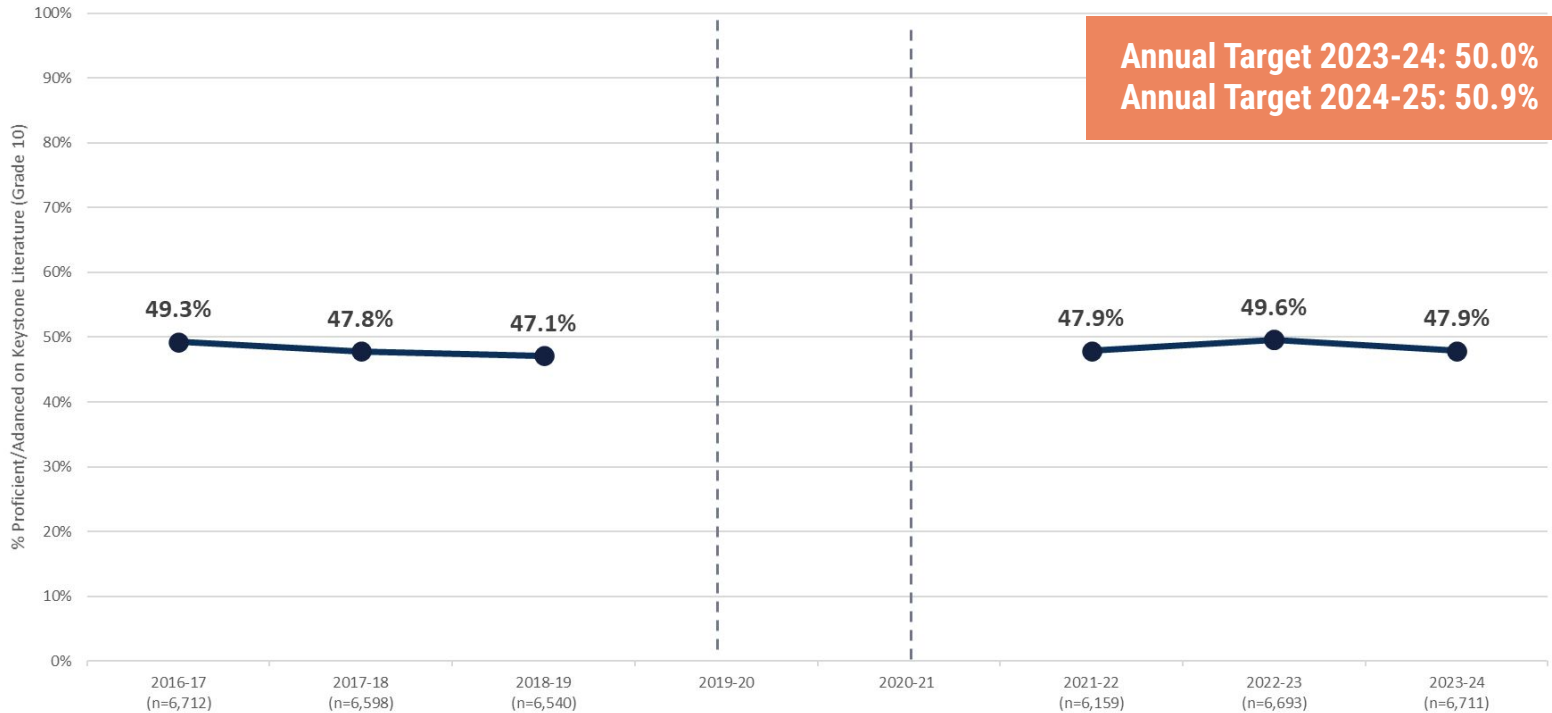
The percentage of students who are proficient on each of the three state high school assessments (Algebra, Literature, Biology) by the end of their 10th grade year

Goal 4 Indicator 1

Keystone Literature
Performance by 10th Grade Cohort

The percentage of students who scored **Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Literature** by 10th grade decreased from 49.6% in 2022-23 to 47.9% in 2023-24 (**-1.7 percentage points**).

Keystone Literature Proficiency Rate (Best by 10th)

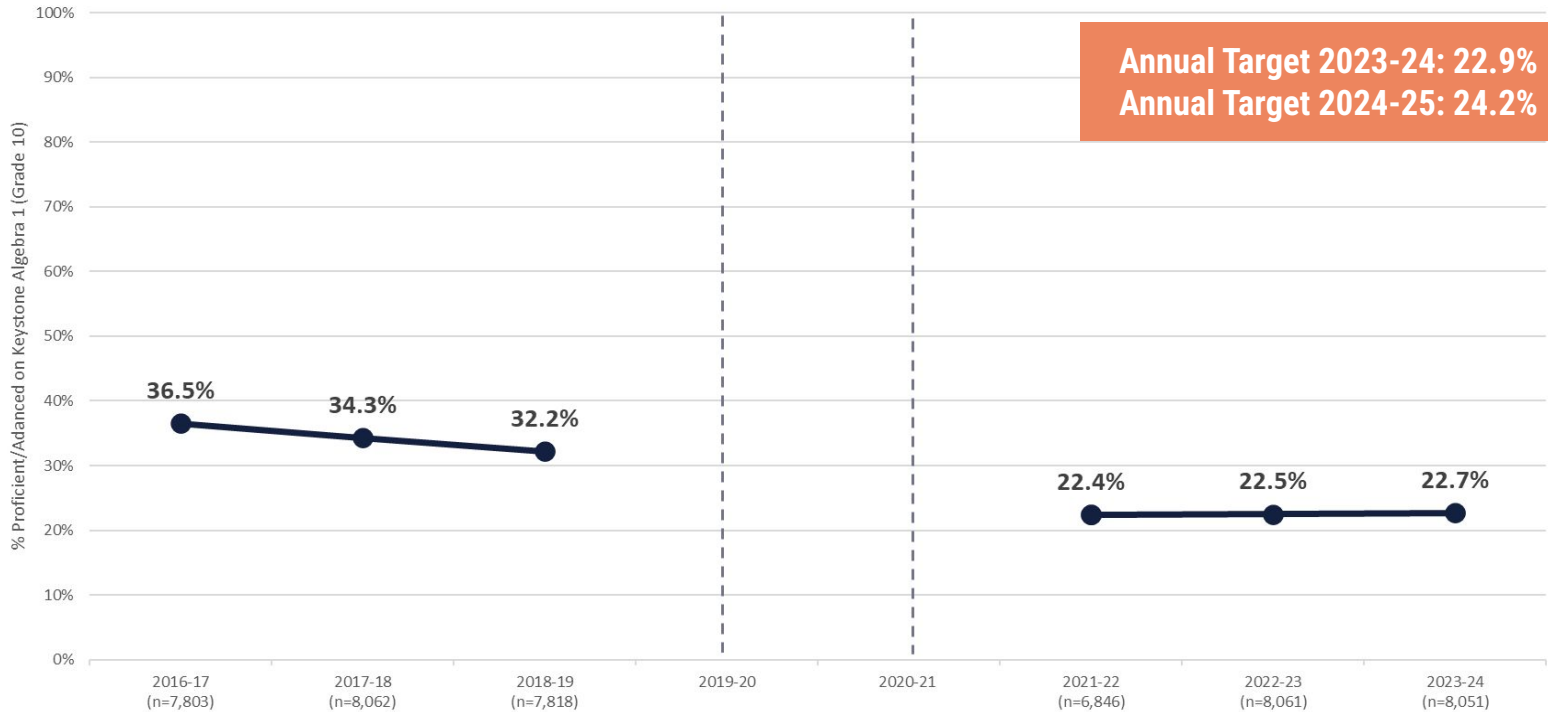


Goal 4 Indicator 1

Keystone Algebra
Performance by 10th Grade Cohort

The percentage of students who scored **Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Algebra** by 10th grade increased from 22.5% in 2022-23 to 22.7% in 2023-24 (**+0.2 percentage points**).

Keystone Algebra 1 Proficiency Rate (Best by 10th)

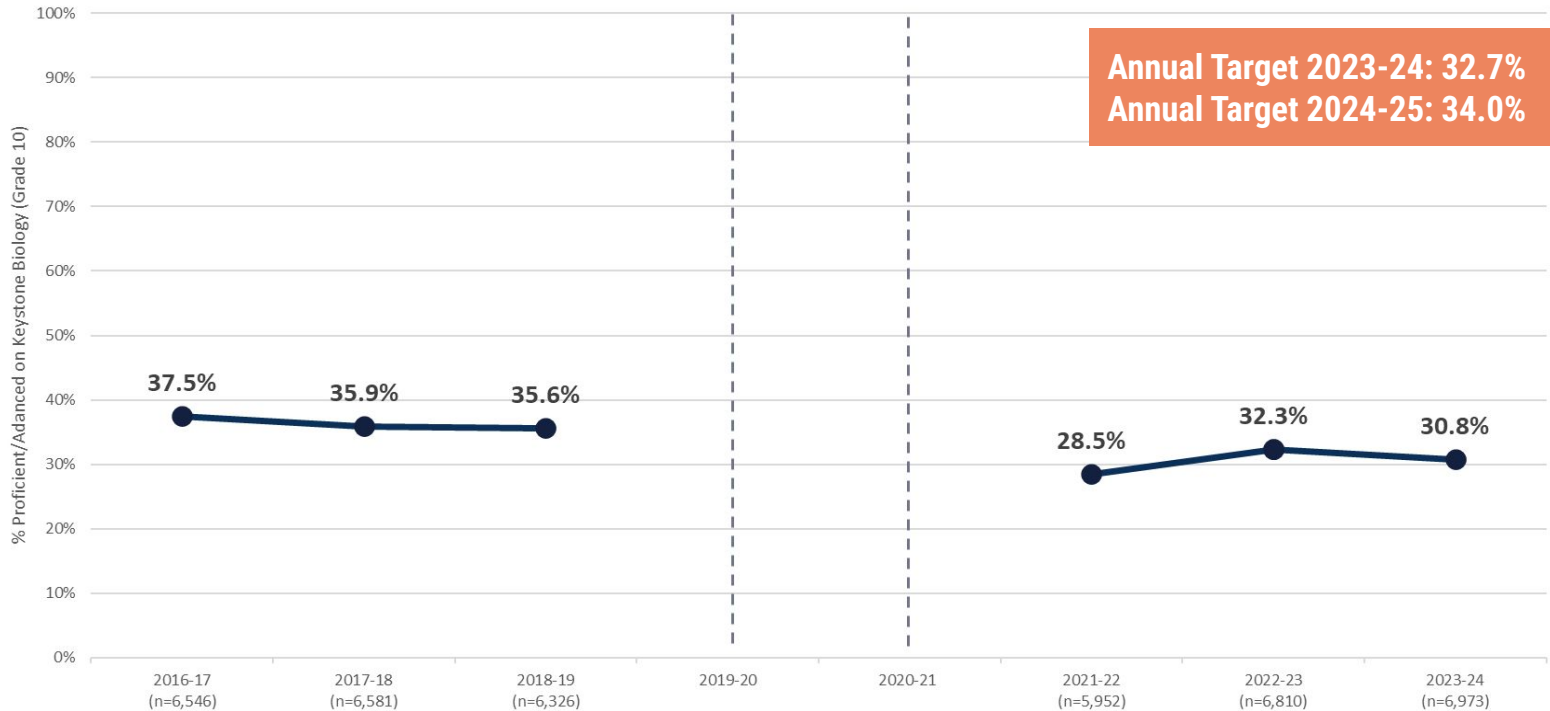


Goal 4 Indicator 1

Keystone Biology
Performance by 10th Grade Cohort

The percentage of students who scored **Proficient or Advanced on the Keystone Biology** by 10th grade decreased from 28.5% in 2022-23 to 30.8% in 2023-24 (**-2.3 percentage points**).

Keystone Biology Proficiency Rate (Best by 10th)



Goal 4 Additional Info: Star At Benchmark

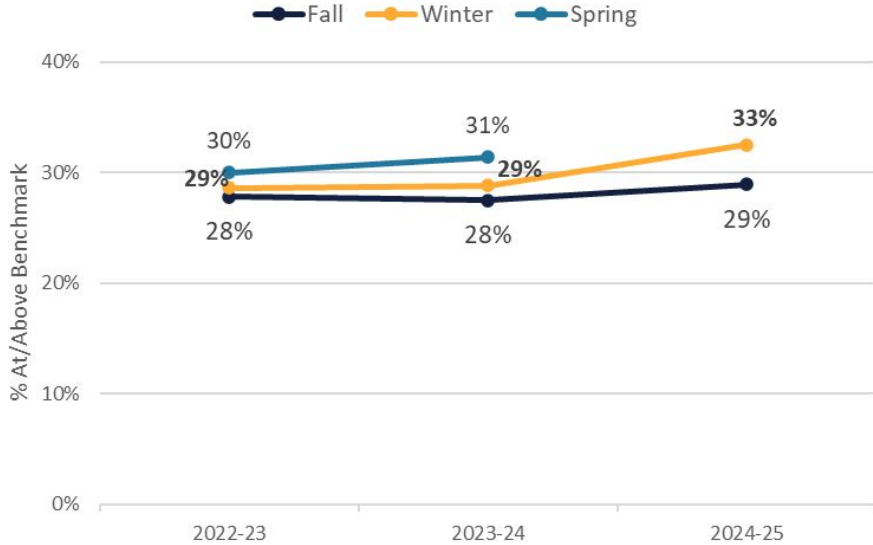


Star Reading & Math

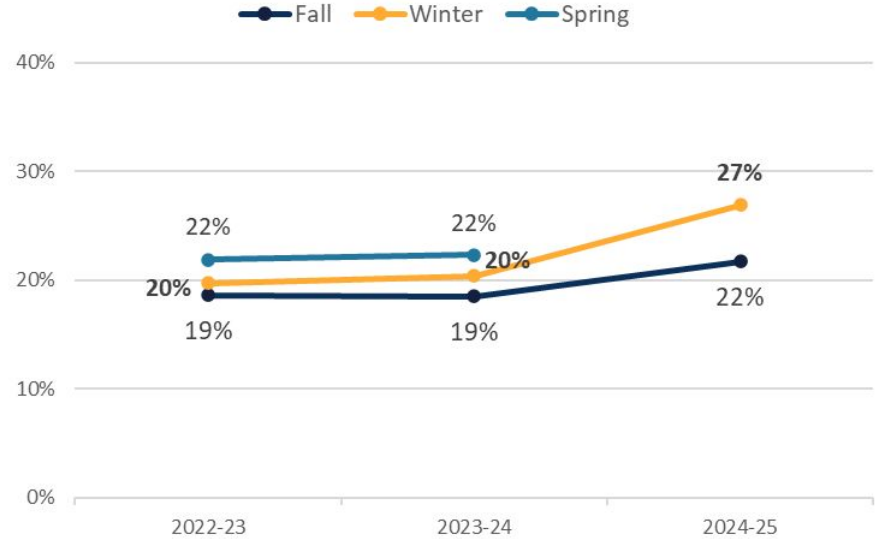
High School Performance

The percentage of students in grades 9-11 who scored **At/Above Benchmark on Star Reading and Star Math increased by +4 points and +7 points, respectively, from Winter 2023-24 to Winter 2024-25.**

Star Reading: Grades 9-11



Star Math: Grades 9-11





Goal 4 Indicator 2: 9th Grade Firmly On Track

The percentage of first-time 9th grade students who are meeting the District's 9th grade Firmly On-Track Metric



Strategic Action 3.13

9th Grade On-Track: Early Indicator of Progress to On-Time Graduation

Researchers from the Chicago Consortium on School Research found that students that 1) fail no more than one semester of a core course and 2) earn at least 5 credits by the end of freshmen year are more likely to graduate within four years, compared with those who do not meet those criteria.

SDP 9th Grade On-Track Definition: A first-time 9th grader in SDP is considered On-Track if they earn at least one credit in each of four core areas (English, math, science, and social studies), plus one additional credit from any source.

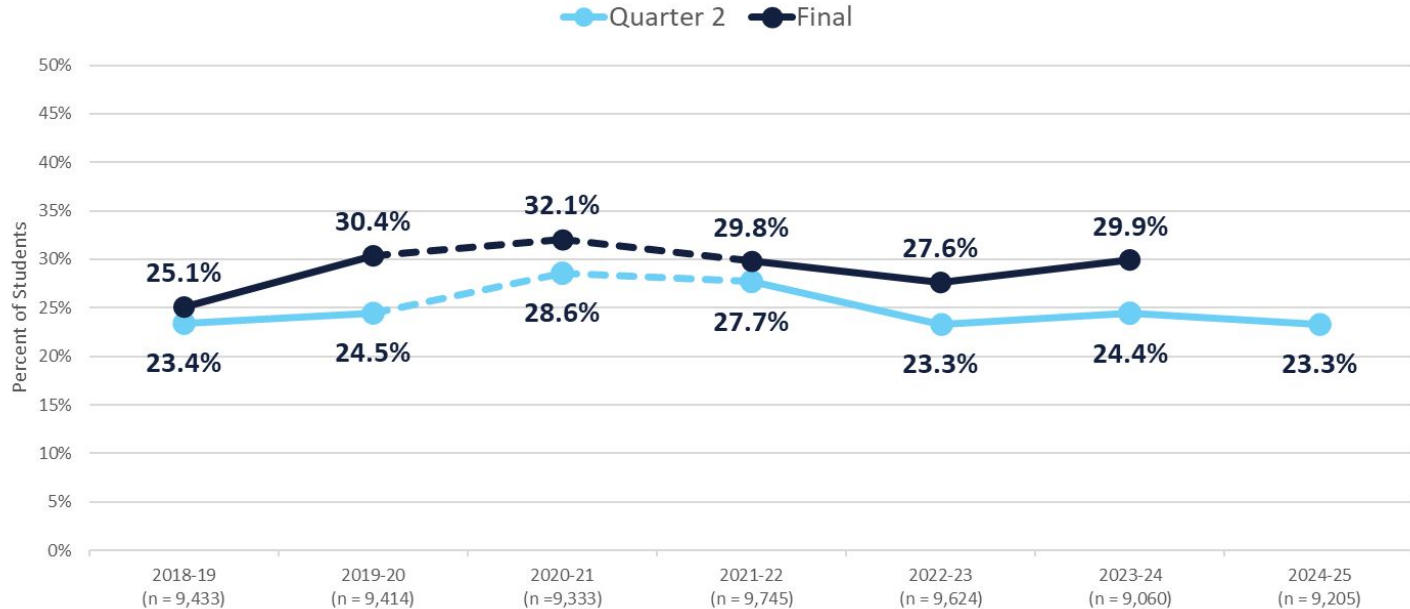
- A student who is **Firmly On Track** meets the On-Track criteria AND has earned an A or B in all courses.
- A student who is **On Track but At Risk** meets the On-Track criteria AND has earned Cs and Ds in some courses.

Goal 4 Indicator 2

9th Grade Firmly On Track

The percentage of first-time 9th grade students who met the District's **9th Grade Firmly On Track** metric decreased from 24.4% in Quarter 2 2023-24 to 23.3% in Quarter 2 2024-25 (-1.0 percentage point).

Goal 4 - Leading Indicator 2: 9th Grade Firmly On Track



*Schools virtual
Spring 2020*

*Fully virtual year
(Covid-19)*

*Partially virtual year
(Covid-19)*

Note: n-counts refer to the number of students with Grades/Credit Records through Quarter 2

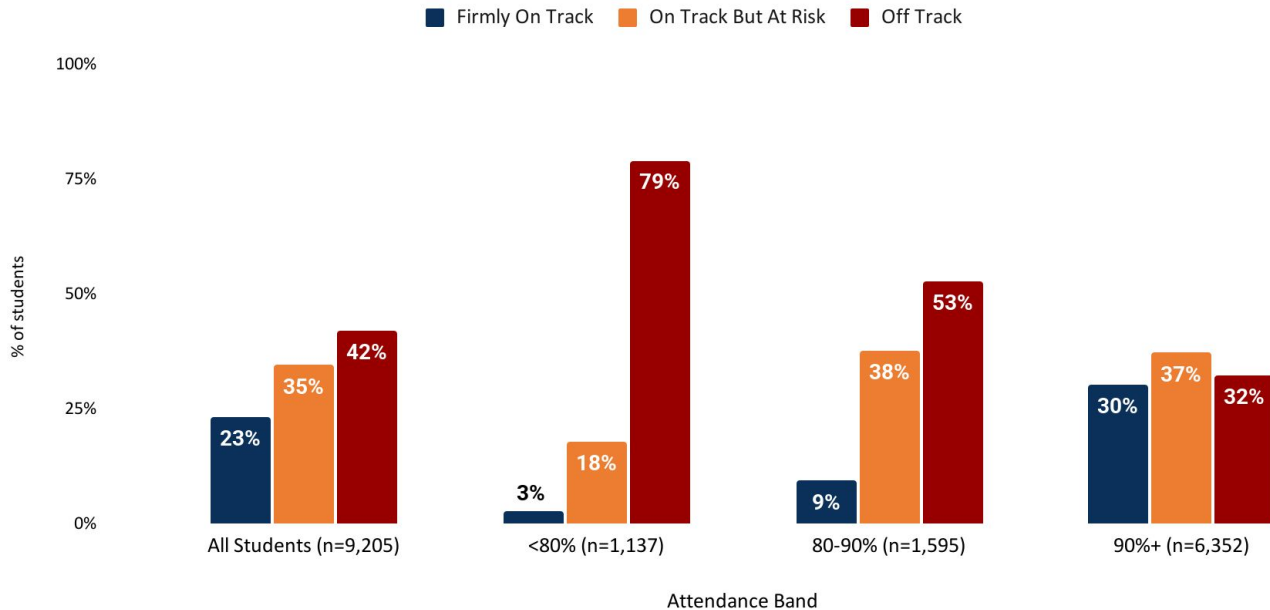
Goal 4 Indicator 2

9th Grade Firmly On Track

A higher percentage of first time 9th grade students with higher attendance met the 9th Grade On Track and Firmly On Track metrics in Quarter 2 2024-25.

Goal 4 - Leading Indicator 2: 9th Grade On Track

Percentage of first-time 9th grade students meeting 9th Grade On Track Metric, Q2 2024-25



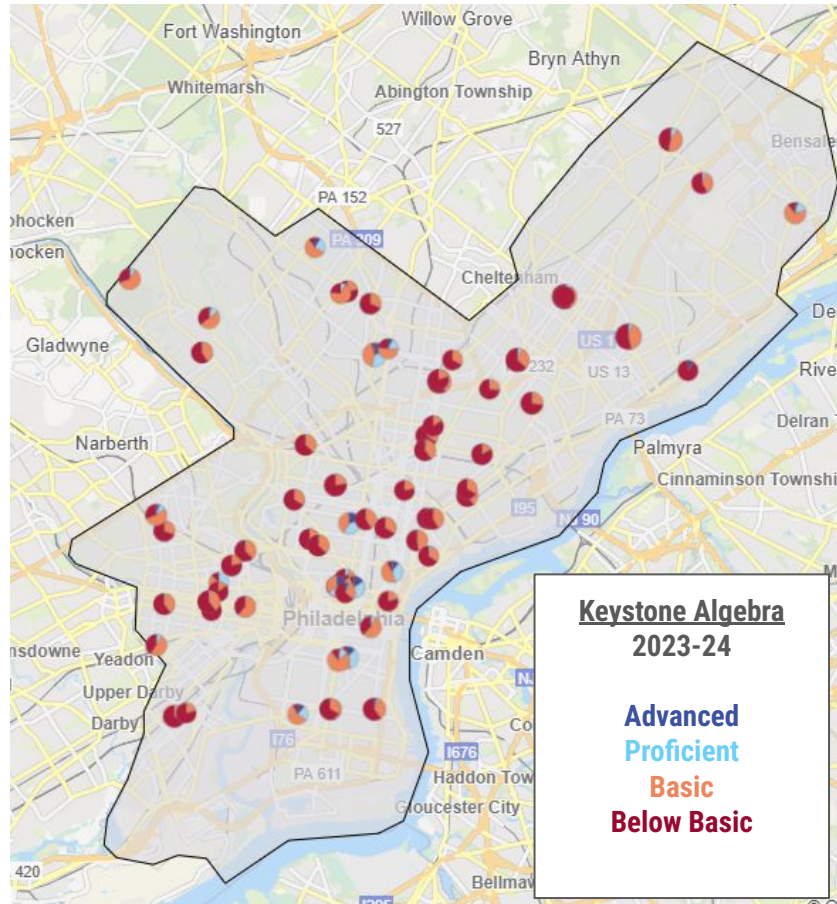
A young man in a black hoodie is the central focus, looking down with a slight smile. He is wearing a black hoodie with a logo that includes the letters 'STAR' and 'PHILADELPHIA BERS'. The background shows a classroom with other students, some wearing headphones, and shelves with books. A blue banner with white text is overlaid at the bottom.

Strategies for Improvement

High Levers for Accelerating Student Achievement

LEVER	ACCELERATE PHILLY STRATEGY
1 Highly qualified, well supported, stable teachers over time	4.2 Pilot recruitment and retention incentives for teachers and principals to reduce vacancies in hard to staff schools. <i>In Progress</i>
2 Highly qualified, well supported, stable principals over time	4.2 Pilot recruitment and retention incentives for teachers and principals to reduce vacancies in hard to staff schools. <i>In Progress</i> 4.10 Launch surveys that provide principals, Assistant Superintendents, and District leaders with feedback from their direct reports. <i>In Progress</i>
3 High quality, standards aligned, and culturally appropriate curriculum (both academic & SEL)	3.2 Purchase and implement standards-aligned core instructional resources for math. <i>In Progress</i> 3.3 (ELA) <i>In Progress</i> and 3.4 (Science) <i>Planning</i> 3.5 High impact tutoring <i>In Progress</i> 3.17 Reorganize learning networks to place resources closer to families and communities and to improve student outcomes. <i>Complete</i>
4 Adequate time on task (regular teacher and student attendance) and rigorous core instruction	1.7 Identify, audit, and improve school climate programs. <i>In Progress</i> 3.9 Provide more support to teachers in the areas of content knowledge, student engagement, and culturally and linguistically relevant instructional practices. <i>In Progress</i> 3.13 Expand 9th Grade On-Track (Success Networks) to reduce dropouts and increase four year graduation rates. <i>In Progress</i>
5 Schools engage parents as partners	2.1 Launch a two-way communications system. <i>Complete</i> 2.3 Launch a Superintendent's parent and guardian advisory group. <i>In Progress</i> 2.9 Relaunch Parent University. <i>In Progress</i> 2.10 Establish parent ambassador role. <i>Planning</i>

School Differences in Math Performance



Strategies to Improve Math Performance

Strategy	Why This Strategy	Evidence of Success	What's Next 2025-26
<p>3.3 Implemented Year 2 of Illustrative Math K-12 curriculum</p>	<p>Provides a comprehensive structure for math instruction and supports teachers in teaching math</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Over 90% of high school teachers felt prepared to implement what they learned in PD</p> <p>Grade 9-11 Star Math At Target increased 5.2 pts Fall to Winter</p>	<p>Continue PD and provide more support and coaching on pacing and unit planning</p>
<p>3.3 Expanded Cross School Learning 8th Grade Algebra from 16 to 25 schools</p>	<p>Puts an effective teacher in front of more students, particularly in schools with lower math performance</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Participant Star Math At Target increased 11.9 pts Fall to Winter, and 43.3% had high growth</p> <p>More students in the virtual CSL model scored At Target on Star Math than 8th graders taking Algebra I in traditional classrooms</p>	<p>Continue CSL in 25 schools and create math pathways to prepare students for taking Algebra I in 8th grade</p>
<p>3.5 Expanded High Impact Tutoring to eight K-8 schools</p>	<p>Study shows students who received tutoring with fidelity learned up to 2.5 years of math in one year</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>65% of participants in 2 pilot schools had higher growth on Star Math from winter to spring year over year, and 50% had an increase on their PSSA Math score</p>	<p>Expanding math tutoring in Algebra for 10th grade students</p>
<p>3.3 Offered an after school Algebra Keystone Support refresher course to 11th graders</p>	<p>Providing targeted support to students who were close to proficiency will improve our Best by 11th performance</p>	<p>PENDING</p> <p><i>Keystone Algebra scores Spring 2025</i></p>	<p>Continue refresher course offering and provide guidance on how students are rostered for Algebra in 9th grade</p>

Strategies to Improve ELA & Biology Performance

Strategy	Why This Strategy	Evidence of Success	What's Next 2025-26
3.2 Implemented Year 1 of Expeditionary Learning K-8 ELA Curriculum	New curriculum based on Science of Reading will focus on foundational skills in earlier grades	YES Grade 3-8 Star Reading At Target increased 3.8 pts Fall to Winter	Year 2 implementation: Continue PD and provide more support and coaching on pacing and unit planning
3.2 Implemented Year 1 of StudySync 9-12 ELA curriculum	New curriculum based on Science of Reading will close learning gaps in high schools from prior Balanced Literacy approach	YES Teachers felt more prepared to implement PD learnings in January than August (+16 pts) Grade 9-11 Star Reading At Target increased 3.6 pts Fall to Winter	Year 2 implementation: Continue PD and provide more support and coaching on pacing and unit planning
3.2 Worked with teachers and principals to plan on infusing writing throughout the curriculum	Writing has not been thoroughly infused into the ELA curriculum, which is reflected in student performance	PENDING <i>Pending implementation</i>	Updating curriculum to ensure writing is embedded in the Expeditionary Learning and StudySync curriculum
3.4 Purchased materials for 2025-26 implementation of BSCS Biology curriculum	Less than a third of students are proficient on the Keystone Biology exam by 11th grade	PENDING <i>Pending implementation</i>	Year 1 implementation to begin in Fall 2025-26

Other High School Strategies

Strategy	Why This Strategy	Evidence of Success	What's Next 2025-26
<p>3.13 Expanded 9th Grade Success Network from 20 to 24 schools</p>	<p>Research shows schools in a 9th Grade Success Network have increased on-time graduation</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>50% of first-time 9th graders in 24 schools were On Track to graduation in Q2, compared to 45% of students in schools not in the network</p> <p>Percentage of 9th graders getting an F in a core course through Q2 decreased 3pts YOY</p>	<p>Expand to 4 more schools, and evaluate all schools on 12 key practices</p>
<p>3.14 Contacted families of over 700 students to reduce dropouts</p>	<p>Direct contacts with families and students ensures we have accurate data and can re-engage effectively</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Over half of traditional high schools had a decrease in the number of dropouts in grades 9-12 from December to February</p> <p>High school dropouts decreased by 483 students from January 2024 to January 2025</p>	<p>Continuing dropout prevention work with a focus on grades 9-12</p>
<p>2.9 Planned for Parent University implementation starting Spring 2025</p>	<p>Students benefit when their parents and guardians have the resources and skills to be engaged in their education</p>	<p>PENDING <i>Pending implementation</i></p>	<p>Year 2 Implementation of Parent University</p>
<p>Other: Planning for additional PD and coaching for Algebra teachers</p>	<p>Keystone Algebra performance has not been improving, and teachers need support in delivering high-quality instruction</p>	<p>PENDING <i>Pending implementation</i></p>	<p>Rolling out PD and coaching in 2025-26</p>



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