

Growing Up Green Charter School II
Evaluative Comments or Responses to Final Report
March 18, 2021

Growing Up Green Charter School II received its final Renewal Site Visit Report on March 11, 2021. Since opening day in 2016, the GUG II community has continued to center our work around the GUGCS mission, core values, and key design elements. After the Mid-Term Site Visit in the spring of 2019, GUG II focused on strengthening its academic program, instructional practices, and teacher development. This intentional work led to GUG II meeting the performance benchmark for Teaching and Learning. While GUG II celebrates its progress, it will continue to reflect and revise its systems to better support student academic achievement and teacher growth in its next charter term.

As noted in the final Renewal Site Visit Report, Growing Up Green II is approaching Benchmark 1 for Student Performance. Between 2016 and present day, GUG II has two years of New York State Test data in ELA and mathematics. While overall GUG II proficiency is lower than that of schools in District 28, students with disabilities (SWDs) at GUG II continue to outperform their peers in both ELA (+3 percentage points) and mathematics (+7 percentage points) in 2019. In addition, ELLs/MLLs at GUG II significantly outperformed their peers in District 28 in math (+21 percentage points) and ELA (+6 percentage points).

Located in the heart of District 28 in Queens, Growing Up Green II draws students and families from many different communities within the District. The bifurcation of District 28 along Union Avenue and the Grand Central Parkways indicates a distinct difference in academic performance for students living in Rego Park and Forest Hills in the northern part as compared to students living in Jamaica and Ozone Park in the southern part.

When comparing NYS assessment data in ELA and mathematics in the attached PDF documents, academic performance of Growing Up Green II students more closely aligns to the performance of students in schools south of the Grand Central Parkway (GCP). In 2019, 52.5% of third grade students at GUG II reached ELA proficiency when compared to 54.7% ELA proficiency of third grade students in schools south of the GCP versus 72.9% proficiency of third grade students in schools north of the GCP. For math proficiency in 2019, 36.7% of GUG II third graders reached proficiency in mathematics as compared to 55.3% of third grade students in schools south of the GCP and 74.3% of third grade students in schools north of the GCP. Reflecting on the math performance of our first cohort of third grade students, the academic team at GUG II emphasized math instruction and teacher development which had a significant impact on student performance the following spring of 2019 with 41.9% of fourth grade students at GUG II

reaching proficiency as compared to 46.4% of students in the southern part of the district compared to 69.1% proficiency of students living north of the GCP.

Growing Up Green II is also approaching Benchmark 9 for Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention. To reflect the needs of District 28, it is important for GUG II to continue strengthening its recruitment efforts to enroll students with disabilities (SWD), English language/Multi-language learners (ELLs/MLLs), and students eligible for free and reduced price lunch (ED). Data from 2016-2020 indicates that GUG II enrolls more students with disabilities (+4 percentage points) and more economically disadvantaged students (+6 percentage points) than schools in District 28 but falls behind the district in enrolling English language learners (-7 percentage points). To make progress in increasing the enrollment of students from special populations, primarily ELLs/MLLs, GUG II will, moving forward, set enrollment targets for each subgroup, strategically recruit families in communities throughout District 28 and with board approval, submit a request to NYSED for permission to use a weighted lottery to meet or exceed enrollment percentages of District 28 schools.