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# **UP Academy Dorchester Charter Renewal**

Boston School Committee

May 31, 2017

# UP Academy Dorchester

We humbly ask for your approval on the renewal of our in-district charter for a second term



**Mission:**

UP Academy Dorchester will ensure that all scholars acquire the knowledge, skills, and strength of character necessary to succeed on the path to college and to achieve their full potential.

SY16-17 Enrollment	750 students
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Grade Span	K1-8
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Year Founded	2013-2014 (entering our 5 <sup>th</sup> year)
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# Vision of excellence for an UP Academy School



Engage in transformative teaching.



Build positive school cultures of high expectations and joy.



Execute our systems with precision.

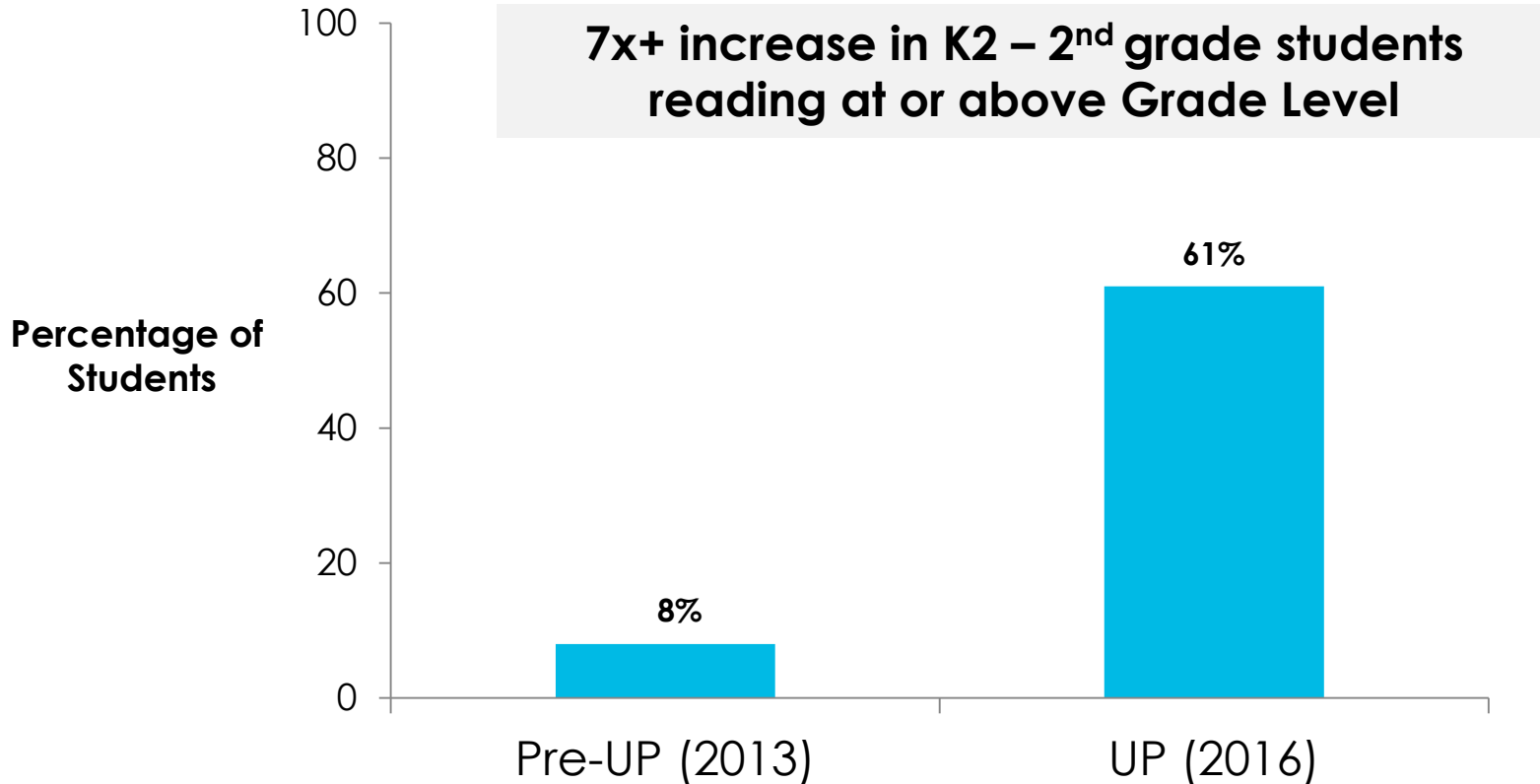


Partner with our families and communities.

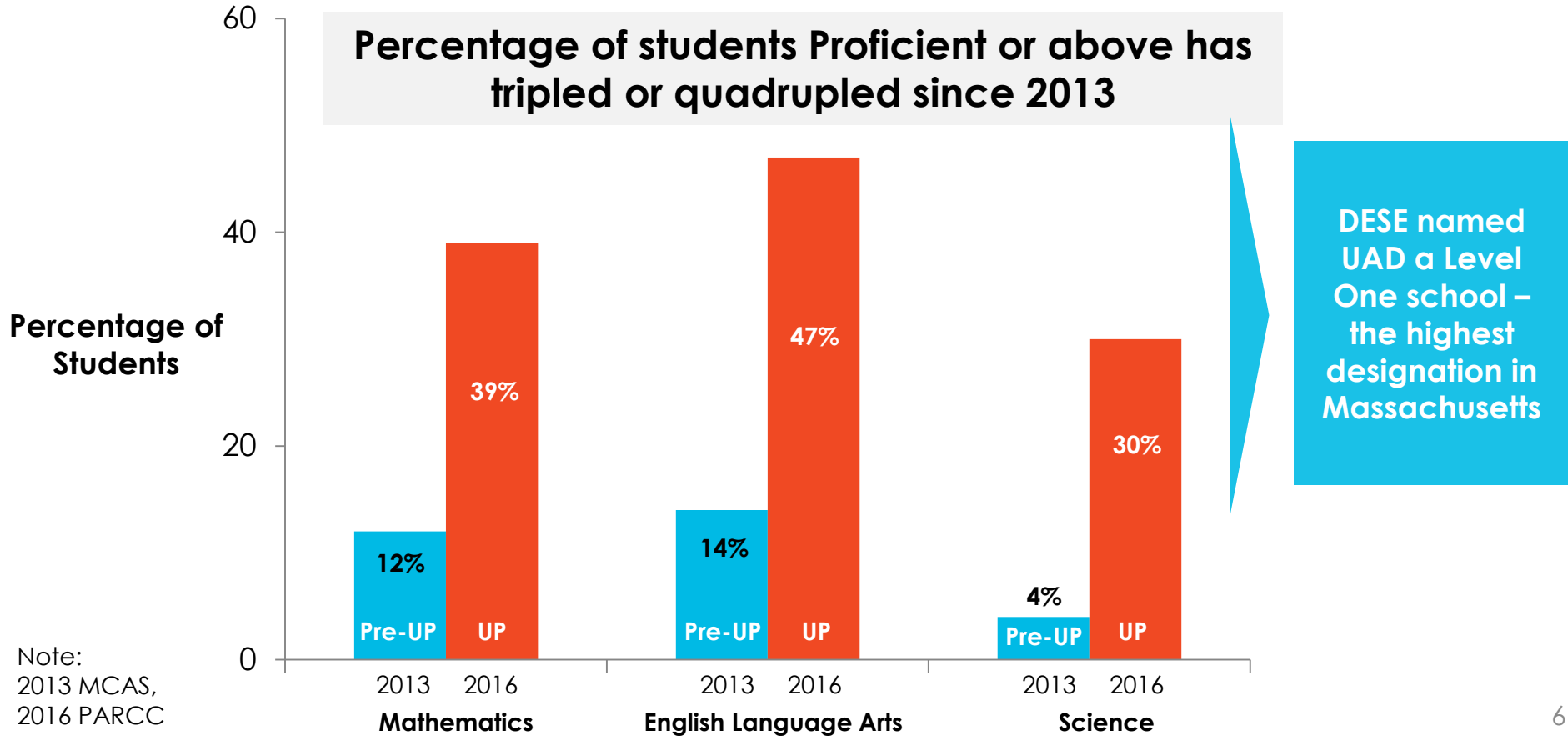
# Who attends UP Academy Dorchester?

Percentage of Students who are	UP Academy Dorchester	Boston Public Schools
Students with Disabilities	20%	20%
Economically Disadvantaged	63%	56%
English Language Learners	21%	31%
Black	57%	32%
Hispanic	38%	42%
White	1%	14%
All Other Races	4%	12%

# Academic results have improved significantly in the early elementary grades...



# ...and across the rest of the school as well



# Our students are reaching new heights, attending exam schools at high rates

BOSTON  
LATIN  
SCHOOL



BLSA  
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



**Boston  
Latin  
Academy**



**28% of all students**

earned an acceptance to one of  
Boston's elite exam schools  
among our first 8<sup>th</sup> grade class

**11 Black and Latino students**  
from UP Academy Dorchester join

**40 Black and Latino students**  
from UP Academy Boston

in earning an exam school admission

# We have reduced exclusions while simultaneously improving academics and school culture

We focused on three goals simultaneously

- Improve student learning
- Strengthen school cultures
- Reduce exclusions

The stakes of achieving all three goals are high

- If we fall short on one or more of these three goals, we will not be helping students unlock their potential and will be falling short on our mission

The commitment to all three goals has enabled us to take high impact actions that help to achieve more than one goal at a time



# This approach has significantly reduced suspensions in all Boston schools, including UP Academy Dorchester

## Change in Suspension: SY15-16 vs. SY16-17 (Note: through March 31<sup>st</sup>)\*

School	# of Suspensions	% of Students Suspended	# of Students Suspended
UP Dorchester	↓ 72%	↓ 46%	↓ 42%
UP Holland	↓ 50%	↓ 36%	↓ 36%
UP Boston	↓ 56%	↓ 28%	↓ 32%

\*Note: Data represents YoY totals through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Numbers are therefore subject to change and do not represent final data for SY16-17.

# Several key elements in our approach to improving student learning, strengthening school culture and reducing exclusions

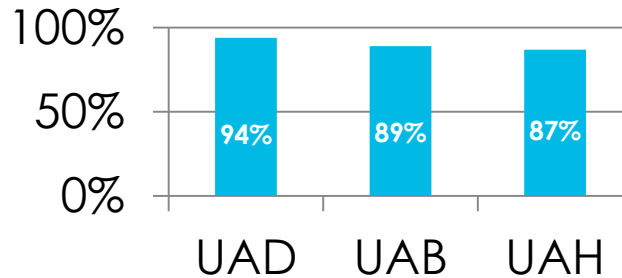
- ✓ Implement a new **Teacher Pathway**, to provide tailored coaching to teacher's based on their individual development needs
- ✓ Increased emphasis on **instructional rigor and cognitively guided instruction**, to deepen student engagement and ownership of their own learning
- ✓ Focus on creating warm, inviting and supportive school cultures, through **robust teacher training and support in classroom management**
- ✓ **Change policies**, including narrowing what can receive a suspension
- ✓ **Expand use of alternative consequences**, such as restorative justice circles and conferences and behavior intervention plans
- ✓ Aggressively **monitor our reporting systems and compliance** with state regulations through regular school compliance audits
- ✓ Listen to families, students and staff in order to **revise our Code of Conduct and uniform policies** to reflect their feedback

# In addition, UAD has deepened relationships with families and the community



Second grade family celebration

**Percent of families who would recommend UP Academy to a friend or family member**

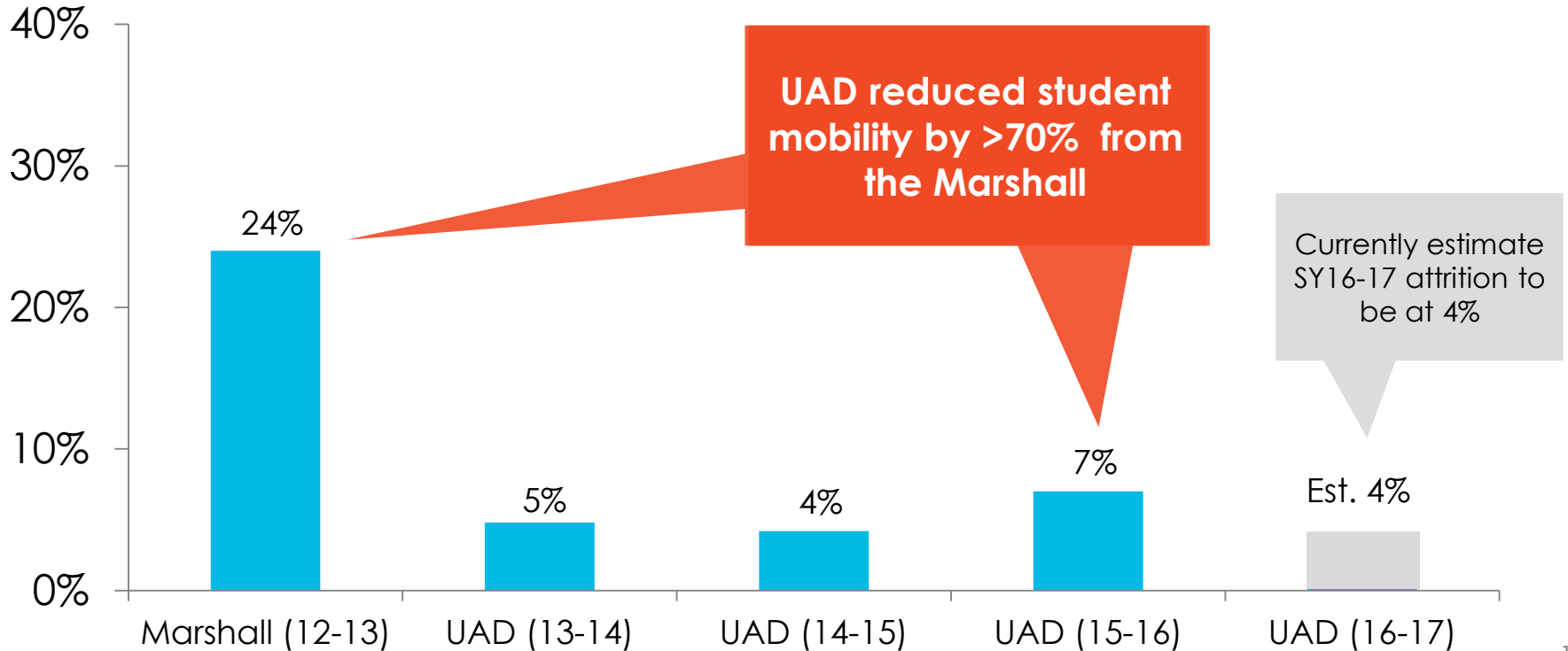


**94% of families who participated in our family survey would recommend UAD to a friend of family member**

- **1000+ applications** received this year for UAD's enrollment lottery; currently **700 students on waitlist**
- **75% of families** participated in parent teacher conferences
- Parents as partners: held **series of meetings** to hear family perspective on key topics
- Active **School Site Council** and Parent Council

# Families stay at UP Academy Dorchester

## School Year Attrition



# Looking ahead: Priorities for SY17-18 and beyond

## Academics

- Developing pre-Advanced Placement academic rigor
- Creating a common approach to instruction and curricular programming
- Strengthening teacher leadership opportunities and leadership development programs

## School Culture & Behavior Systems

Our new CEO is committed to continuing to work on improving our Code of Conduct and behavior management systems, and intends to work with our schools next year to:

- Intentionally deepen positive relationships with students through more consistent use of advisories
- Expand restorative practices
- Further engage with students and families
- Revise and update our Code of Conduct and practices where needed