### The KIPP Difference Metro Atlanta Schools

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

### At KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools,

our mission is to equip students with the academic skills, scholarly habits, and character traits necessary to be successful in top quality colleges and the competitive world beyond.



#### KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools 2015-2016 Overview



### Founded in 2003

94% **Eligible for Free- and Reduced-Price Meals** 

97% **African-American** 

92% **College Acceptance** for the KIPP Atlanta **Collegiate Class of** 2016

**\$8.1m** Earned in **Scholarships by** the KIPP Atlanta **Collegiate Class of** 2016

### Letter from the **Executive Director**

As I look back on the 2015-16 school year, I am both proud of our accomplishments and excited about the future. As an organization, we are committed to a continuous cycle of reflection and improvement—building on past accomplishments, evaluating what our schools and communities need, and planning for the coming years. This past year in particular, we spent a significant amount of time evaluating what makes KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools unique, what drives our scholars' accomplishments and our success, and how we can continue to increase our impact—both by continuously raising the bar at our existing schools and exploring possibilities for growing to serve even more scholars. I am honored to take this opportunity to share last year's results with you, as well as an overview of what we believe sets our schools apart and a glimpse of the future.

In May we received our most recent CCRPI (the state's College and Career Ready Performance Index) results for middle and high school, demonstrating that our schools are among the best in their districts.

- KIPP's three middle schools in Atlanta Public Schools each scored in the top third of the district's middle schools, and on average they outperformed the district by 16 points.
- KIPP South Fulton Academy scored fifth highest among Fulton County's 23 middle schools, first among middle schools in South Fulton, and has a CCRPI score 16 points higher than the county average.
- KIPP Atlanta Collegiate scored second highest among all Atlanta Public Schools high schools and 19 points above average for the district.

Our elementary schools continue to add a grade every year and KIPP STRIVE Primary will be fully scaled with Kindergarten through fourth grade in the 2016-17 school year. KIPP Vision and KIPP WAYS are not far behind, and we cannot wait for the day when all of our elementary school scholars will have the opportunity to continue with KIPP through middle school, high school, and—with the support of our KIPP Through College team—college.

As we grow, we are also focused on how we can continue to improve to provide our scholars with the strongest possible foundation for success in college and in life. We continue to refine and improve our curriculum to help eliminate the achievement gap for our scholars. During the 2015-16 school year we also laid the groundwork for several new initiatives that I am honored to share with you in the pages of this Annual Report

We know that our work is not done and that there are still far too many students who do not have access to a high-quality, collegepreparatory education. This reality can be sobering, but seeing our scholars and teachers prove what is possible in public education gives me hope and an excitement for the future of KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools and the future of education in our city.

Thank you for partnering with us on this journey. Your support makes our work and our scholars' accomplishments possible. I invite you to visit our schools and see the KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools difference first hand.

> With Gratitude, **Kinnari Patel-Smyth** Executive Director, KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools



# **The Academic** Difference

**Great education transforms lives. At KIPP Metro Atlanta** Schools, we know that all students will learn and achieve at high levels if given the opportunity.

For more than 13 years, KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools has been equipping students from educationally underserved communities with the skills, scholarly habits, and character traits necessary to be successful in college and in life.

We have grown from two fifth grade classes in 2003 to eight schools educating more than 3,200 scholars. Our schools are part of the free public school system and enrollment is open to all students. Our public charter schools are given

more academic and budgetary flexibility than traditional public schools, and in exchange commit to deliver high-quality academic results for our scholars.

At KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools, our teachers, scholars, and families are all united around the same goal: college and a choice-filled life. We know that an excellent collegepreparatory education will set scholars up for success in whatever life path they choose. While we believe that we always have room to grow and improve, our progress to date has clearly demonstrated what is possible. As we look to the future, we have never been more optimistic.

### If you visit our schools, you will notice several things that set them apart:

#### **High Expectations and College-Preparatory Academics**

We set clearly defined and measurable high expectations for academic achievement and conduct in order to create and reinforce a culture of achievement and support. We know that every student is different and we personalize learning based on a scholar's needs, skills, and interests.

#### **Extended school day and year**

We know that there are no shortcuts when it comes to success in academics and life. With an extended school day and year, scholars have more time in the classroom to acquire the academic knowledge and skills that will prepare them for competitive colleges, as well as more opportunities to engage in diverse extracurricular experiences.

#### Safe, Structured, and Nurturing Environments

Our schools provide a safe, structured, and nurturing environment with minimal distractions, so that our scholars love school and maximize their learning.

#### **Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders**

Great schools require great teachers and school leaders. We hire educators who have equal levels of skill and passion for our mission, empower our educators to lead in their classrooms and schools, and invest in training to help them grow as professionals.



#### **AP For All**

During the 2015-16 school year, KIPP Atlanta Collegiate High School prepared to launch a three-year rollout of our new AP For All opportunity. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, KIPP Atlanta Collegiate will transition to a curriculum that leads all graduates to take capstone exams in each of the four core academic areas: Math, English, Science, and Social Studies. We believe that the Advance Placement (AP) program is crucial for all of our scholars and will help prepare them for college admissions and success.



### **The Character** Difference

From the beginning, KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools has been grounded in the belief that strength of character is just as important as academic achievement. We know that, for our scholars to succeed in college and the world beyond, they need both a strong academic foundation and a set of well-developed character strengths. "Work hard. Be nice." is more than just a motto.

By helping scholars nurture and build their character strengths, both in and out of the classroom, we can better prepare them to tackle any challenges they may face on their journey to and through college and life. KIPP's approach to character is rooted in the research of psychologists Dr. Martin Seligman and Dr. Chris Peterson.

Our character work focuses on seven character strengths that have been found to strongly predict whether students will go on to lead engaged, happy, and successful lives. These seven character strengths are zest, grit, optimism, self-control, gratitude, social intelligence, and curiosity. Schools incorporate these character strengths into classroom lessons, as well as providing opportunities for scholars to exercise and build character throughout the school day and year.



Having an extended school day and year provides scholars with time to engage in a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Extracurricular experiences provide an opportunity for scholars to build and demonstrate their character strengths, and are an important aspect of educating the whole child—body, mind, and spirit. At KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools, we work to infuse character development into all that we do in the classroom, on the stage, and in the gymnasium. Athletics and extracurricular activities help scholars develop character strengths, as well as leadership and teamwork skills to help them be successful in school and beyond. The variety of extracurricular activities allows scholars to discover and develop character strengths while also discovering new interests and passions. KIPP Metro Atlanta schools offer fine arts, dance, theatre, band, debate, athletics, and many others. Scholars learn how to work in teams, strengthen a skill, try something new, and—all the while—they are preparing to be successful in college and in life.



#### **Restorative Practices and Social Emotional Learning**

To further develop our ability to empower our scholars with the character skills needed to be successful, six KIPP Metro Atlanta schools spent time in the 2015-16 school year preparing to pilot new social emotional learning and restorative practices initiatives.

Restorative Practices are a way of building behavior systems that work with our students, not for or to them. These practices are a way to foster positive, healthy school climates and help students learn from their mistakes. They prioritize relationships, understanding, and repairing harm. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) focuses on helping students acquire and apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotion, establish and maintain positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and pursue their goals. These pilots will span three years and will allow our schools to strengthen and deepen their focus on character.



#### SUCCESS ON THE JOURNEY TO AND THROUGH COLLEGE

# The KIPP Through College Difference

#### KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools' commitment to our scholars does not end with high school graduation.

Beginning in elementary school, our KIPP Through College (KTC) team supports students and families as they plan for college and apply for the right colleges for their needs and interests. One of the keys to student success in college is the right match between student and school. In particular, students who attend schools with high graduation rates for students from similar backgrounds are far more likely to graduate themselves. KTC counselors and advisors guide our high school scholars and their families through the college admissions, choice, and financial aid processes to ensure access to a college that is a good fit. Then, we help KIPP alumni navigate the social, academic, and financial challenges they might encounter while in college. All KIPP Metro Atlanta alumni—whether they completed eighth grade at a KIPP Metro Atlanta school or graduated from our high school—are supported by the KIPP Through College team.

#### College Partnerships

On a national level, KIPP continues to establish innovative partnerships with a range of colleges and universities across the country to ensure that our students and others from underrepresented communities matriculate to, persist in, and graduate from college. A college partnership is an agreement between KIPP and a college to develop programs, projects, and activities that provide support to first-generation college students and students from underserved communities.

For first-generation college students and those from educationally underserved backgrounds, having a college support system can make an enormous difference in feeling secure and confident on campus. KIPP has partnered with more than 80 colleges and universities to develop and strengthen support systems for first-generation students.

#### Results

As of fall 2015, **81 percent** of students who completed eighth grade at KIPP have gone on to college—**almost double the rate for students from similar backgrounds.** KIPP alumni across the country are graduating from college at a higher rate than the national average and more than four times the rate for students from similar backgrounds. We are proud of these numbers, but we are not satisfied. We want KIPP students to complete college at similar rates to those of students from the nation's highest-income families.



#### The KIPP Metro Atlanta LEAD College Ambassador Program

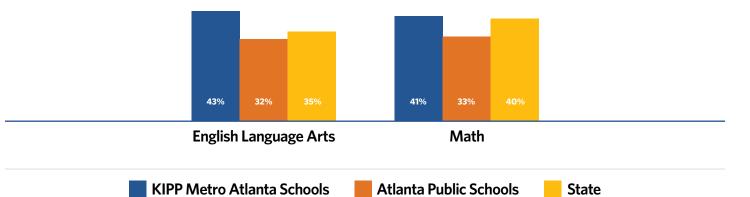
During the 2015-16 school year, KIPP Metro Atlanta developed plans for our new college ambassador program. Our KIPP LEAD (Lead Educate Advocate Develop) Ambassador program will connect new KIPP college enrollees with campus-based KIPP Metro Atlanta alumni ambassadors to help address some of the challenges our alumni face during the transition to college and provide the community and support they need to persist in college. A structured framework including peer-mentoring opportunities, campus activities, and consistent communication about academic, professional, and life goals will help ensure our alumni are equipped to succeed. We will roll this out at six southeastern colleges where we know students will benefit from additional supports.



# The Difference by the Numbers

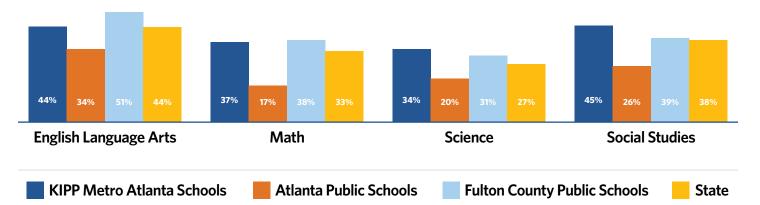
#### Third Grade Georgia Milestones End of Grade Results

The 2015-16 school year was the first year KIPP Metro Atlanta elementary school students took the third grade Georgia Milestones tests since it was the first year that one of our schools had a third grade. Students outperformed their peers at Atlanta Public Schools and at the state level. We look forward to future years when the results will reflect the results of more than one KIPP Metro Atlanta elementary school.



#### Eighth Grade Georgia Milestones End of Grade Results

KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools eighth grade scholars consistently outperformed their peers across the state and at Atlanta Public Schools, where three of our middle schools are located. Our results were mixed compared to Fulton County Public Schools, where one of our middle schools is located. While we are encouraged by our performance relative to other schools here and across the state, we are committed to continuing to raise the bar for all students and close the opportunity gap.

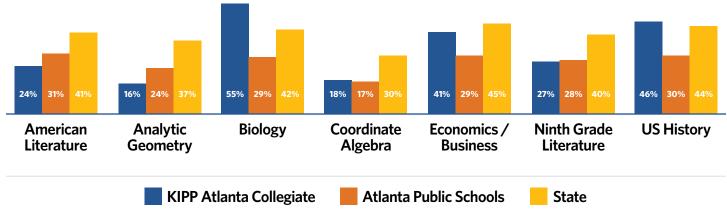


\*Top-performing students at KSFA took high school EOC's in ELA and Math instead of the 8th grade EOG in those subjects. These percentages represent scores for 57 out of 84 students for the 8th grade ELA Milestones test and 36 out of 84 students for the 8th grade Math Milestones test.



#### High School Georgia Milestones End of Course Results

KIPP Atlanta Collegiate scholars had mixed results compared to their peers at Atlanta Public Schools and at the state level. As KIPP Atlanta Collegiate begins its transition to AP For All, we look forward to increasing the rigor and outcomes for our students.



#### High School Graduation Rate Results

Georgia's 2016 high school graduation rate rose for the fifth straight year and KIPP Atlanta Collegiate continued to significantly outperform district and state graduation rate averages.

KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools	
Atlanta Public Schools	
State	

#### Revenue

- Public Funding (82%)
- Private Contributions for Operations (16%)
- Other (2%)

**Total Operational Revenue** 

#### Expenses

- Instruction/Program (90%)
- General Administration (9%)
- Other (1%)

**Total Operational Expenses** 



SUCCESS ON THE JOURNEY TO AND THROUGH COLLEGE

## Thank You for Making a Difference

We are grateful to all of our 2015-16 donors for partnering with us on this journey. Your generosity helps make all of our students' accomplishments possible.

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KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools is part of the KIPP non-profit network of college-preparatory, public charter schools. There are currently 200 KIPP schools in 20 states and the District of Columbia educating nearly 80,000 students in elementary, middle, and high school. As a national network, KIPP has a 20-year track record of helping students in educationally underserved communities develop the knowledge, skills, and character strengths they need for success in college and life.