



**FIRSTLINE SCHOOLS**  
**EDUCATION FOR LIFE**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
2013-14

## **DEAR FRIEND OF FIRSTLINE,**

Over the past eight years our schools have improved greatly. Academic achievement has significantly increased, our schools have moved into new facilities or have renovations planned. Our wonderful Edible Schoolyard gardens have taken root and are continuing to grow out across the network. After-school and summer programming opportunities continue to expand, with a growing range of summer school options and an athletic league for our middle school students offering interscholastic competition for boys and girls in six sports.

Now, we are setting our sights on the next stage of our development. How do we continue to improve in order to achieve our long-term vision of developing the whole child: mind, body, and spirit? The transition to Common Core State Standards, while they will undoubtedly prove challenging in the early years, will help us with this transition. The increased rigor provided by these standards will push us to continue to improve our instruction and to provide more responsive support to students who are struggling. It will also demand that we provide significantly more time for our teachers to plan collaboratively and learn together. In addition to increasing the rigor of our classes, we will continue to personalize the learning experience for students. Incorporating flexible grouping based on students' individual needs and with computer-assisted instruction, students will be able to learn at their own pace and direct their own learning to a much greater extent.

In addition to improving our academic program, we will continue to expand our enrichment and extra-curricular offerings to provide a rich variety of experiences to nurture character, health, and active citizenship and to help students discover new areas of interest. With each new school year we are increasing our offerings in sports, music, visual arts, gardening, and cooking. This past school year, four of our five schools were represented by bands in Mardi Gras parades.

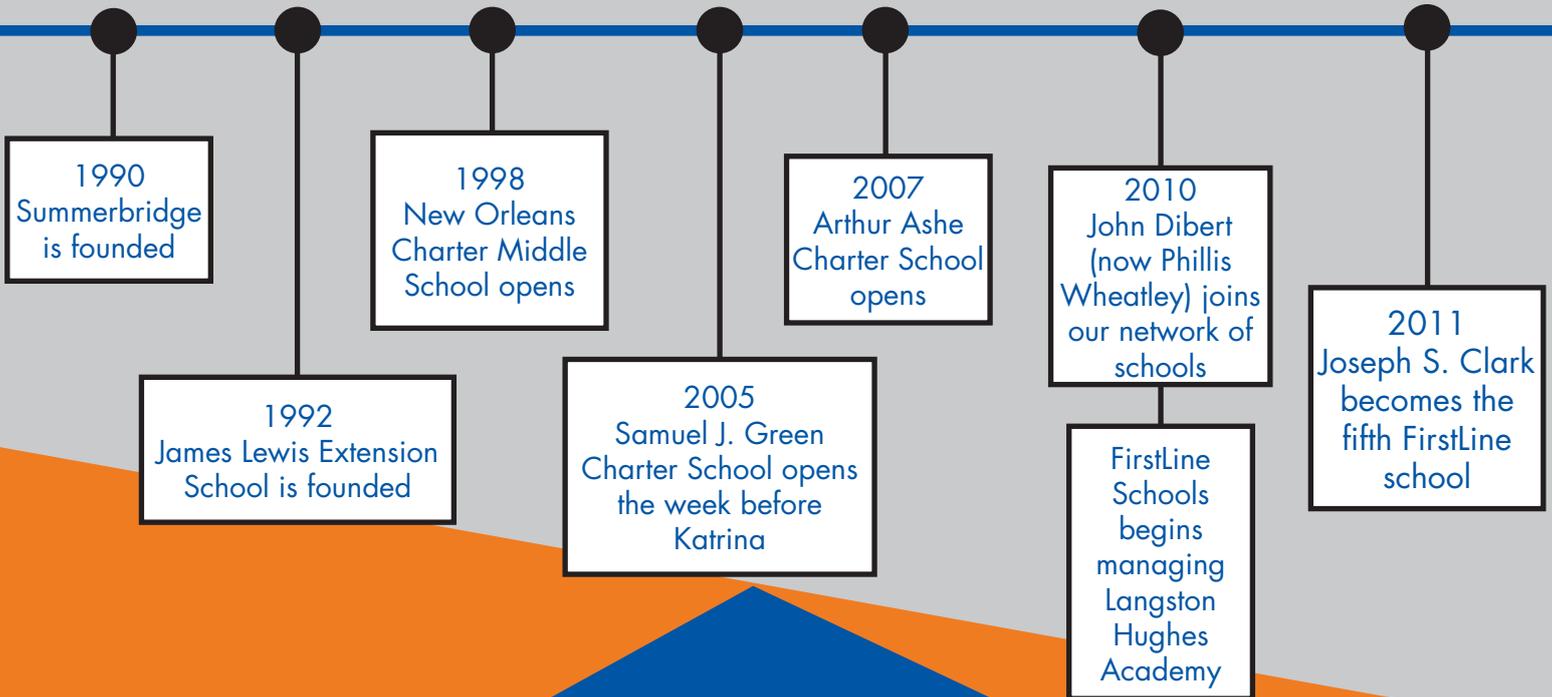
We feel very fortunate to be working in public education during a time of such opportunity to create schools that are more responsive to the needs of our students. The progress thus far has been driven by the hard work of hundreds of teachers, school leaders, and staff members in partnership with thousands of parents, students, community partners and volunteers. It has been an extraordinary effort by many people, and we thank you for your partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Jay Altman  
CEO

# ABOUT FIRSTLINE SCHOOLS

We believe that New Orleans can be the first city in America where every child goes to a great school.



1990  
Summerbridge  
is founded

1998  
New Orleans  
Charter Middle  
School opens

2007  
Arthur Ashe  
Charter School  
opens

2010  
John Dibert  
(now Phillis  
Wheatley) joins  
our network of  
schools

2011  
Joseph S. Clark  
becomes the  
fifth FirstLine  
school

1992  
James Lewis Extension  
School is founded

2005  
Samuel J. Green  
Charter School opens  
the week before  
Katrina

FirstLine  
Schools  
begins  
managing  
Langston  
Hughes  
Academy

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

Jay Altman, Co-Founder and CEO  
Joseph Neary, Chief Operating Officer  
Sabrina Pence, Chief Academic Officer  
Claudia Barker, Chief Development Officer

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gregory St. Etienne, Chair  
Brian P. Egana, Vice Chair  
Stephen R. Rosenthal, Treasurer  
Alison Hartman, PhD, Secretary  
Monique Cola, PhD  
George Freeman

Lawrence S. Kullman  
Darius Harrell  
Kim Henry  
Catherine D. Pierson  
Christian J. Rhodes

*Our skilled board of directors consists of 11 volunteer members, who represent a variety of backgrounds and expertise. Many of our board members have been involved with education reform since the early '90s. They are regularly active and available, oftentimes serving on subcommittees that contribute to the organization's success: governance, facilities, legal, advocacy, development, and finance.*



NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

COMPOST

COMPOST

# WHAT WE DO

## *Mission & Vision:*

We create and inspire great open admissions public schools in New Orleans. Our schools will prepare students for college and fulfilling careers by achieving the following primary objectives:

- Ensuring **college readiness** so all of our students are on track to be academically prepared for success in college and in a college preparatory high school as demonstrated by achievement, aspiration, love of learning, and confidence.
- Providing a **rich variety of experiences** for our students to nurture **character, health, and active citizenship**.
- Developing the **skillfulness of our staff**.
- Building **sustainable organizations** that facilitate our long-term success.

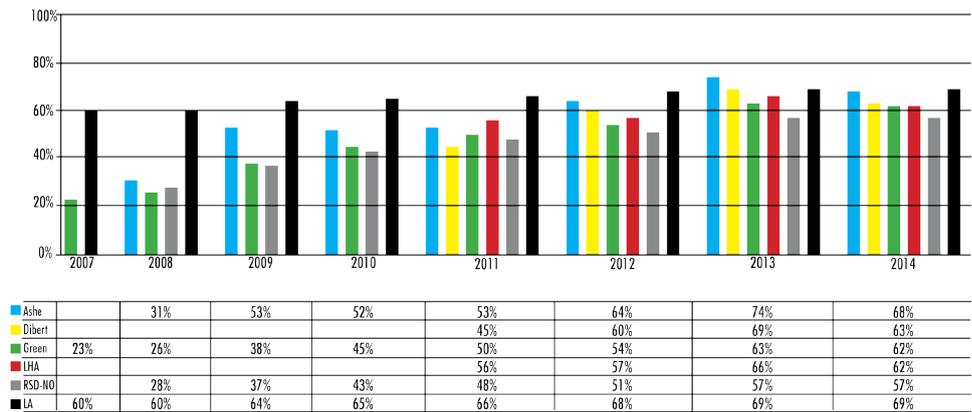


# ACHIEVEMENT DATA

On average, scholars that have been at FirstLine schools longer are more likely to score basic or above.

At FirstLine Schools we take a long-term view of this work. Although our academic achievement scores may vary from year to year, all five of our schools are on strong upward trajectories since they became FirstLine Schools.

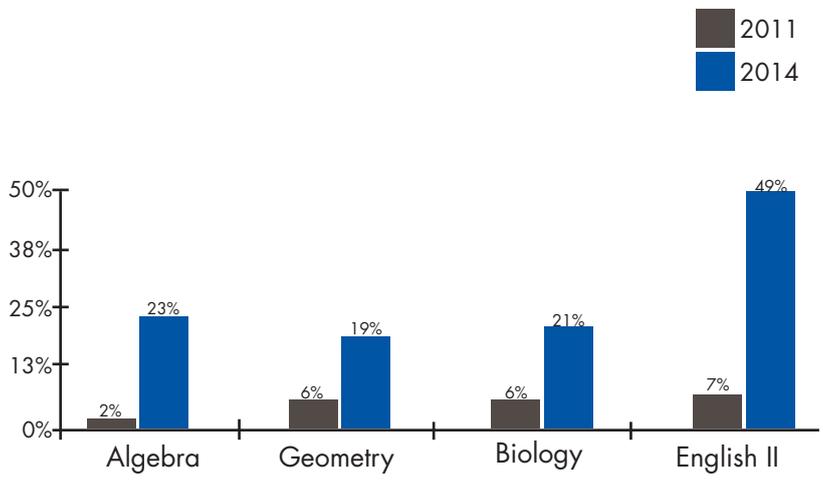
*FirstLine K-8 Schools, % performing at Basic & Above over time since becoming a FirstLine School*



The percentage of students scoring good or above on English III exams has increased by **32 percentage points** from 2013 to 2014

From 2013 to 2014, the percentage of students scoring good or above on History exams increased by **18 percentage points**

*Clark Prep: Good or Above on End of Course Exams, 2011 (RSD) vs 2014*



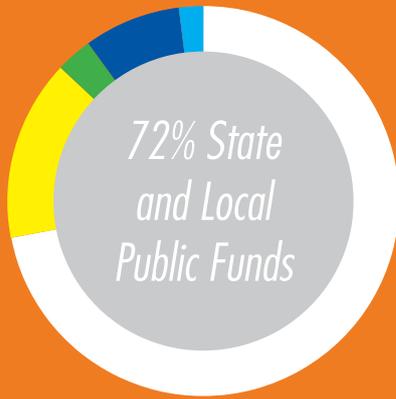
We have made meaningful progress across all of our schools over the past several years, but we still have much work ahead to achieve our shared vision. In the 2014-15 school year, we are continuing to focus on the development of the whole child and expanding our programming in music, the arts, and physical activity, which recent research has confirmed makes our students both mentally and physically healthier and more ready to learn. We are also refocusing on data-driven instructional practices and effective use of teacher coaching.



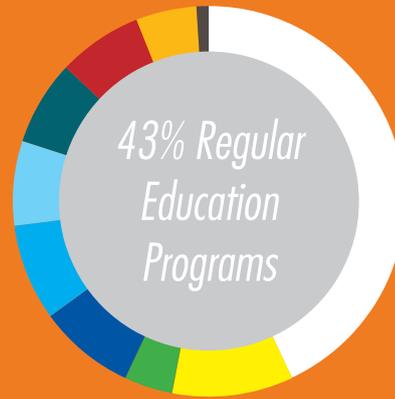
LANGSTON HUGHES  
ACADEMY  
**SCHOLAR**  
Dream it. Do it. Be it.

# FINANCIALS

## Revenue



## Expenses



- State and Local Public Funds
- Federal Program Public Funds
- Private Grants and Contributors
- One-time Government Grants
- Other

- Regular Education Programs
- Special Education Programs
- Enrichment Programs
- Pupil Support
- School Administration
- Facilities
- Student Transportation
- Shared Services
- Food Service
- Organizational Development



# A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR KEY CONTRIBUTORS

- Action for Healthy Kids
- Alison Hartman
- Almar Foundation
- Baptist Community Ministries
- Barrasso Usdin
- Kupperman Freeman & Sarver, LLC
- Caesars Foundation
- Capital One Bank
- Carro Gardner
- Catherine D. and Hunter Pierson
- Chevron Corporation
- Cox Communications
- David Schlakman
- Entergy Charitable Foundation
- FIRST Robotics Competition
- George C. Freeman
- George G. Villere
- George H. Wilson Jr.
- Goldring Family Foundation
- GPOA Foundation
- Greater New Orleans Foundation
- John W. and Bertie Murphy Deming Foundation
- Louisiana Public Health Institute/ School Health Connection
- Michael Murphy
- New Schools for New Orleans
- Newman's Own Foundation
- Patrick F. Taylor Foundation
- Pro Bono Publico Foundation
- Ruth U. Fertel Foundation
- Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
- The Bob and Margaret Reily Fund
- The Booth-Bricker Fund
- The Ella West Freeman Foundation
- The Emeril Lagasse Foundation
- The Gustaf Westfeldt McIlhenny Family Foundation
- The Heart of America Foundation
- The Joe W. & Dorothy Dorsett Brown Foundation
- The Keller Family Foundation
- The Louisiana Dept. of Education
- The Mary Freeman Wisdom Foundation
- The Murphy Foundation
- The Octavia Foundation
- The RosaMary Foundation
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Usdin
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign
- Whitney National Bank
- Whole Kids Foundation
- World Hunger Year, Inc.
- Zemurray Foundation

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tomatoes

FLY  
BARREN FIELD  
WITH SNOW