



2017 SPF RATINGS

A record high number of schools achieved our top ratings, meeting or exceeding expectations, on the 2017 School Performance Framework.

One third of our schools increased their overall rating between 2016 and 2017, fueled partly by our students' record growth in English language arts and early literacy. And, we cut the number of schools receiving our lowest rating by two-thirds, from 31 to 10.

To emphasize our commitment to equity, we introduced the Academic Gaps indicator to ensure all kids are learning. We believe deeply that all children are capable of success.

Context: What is the SPF?

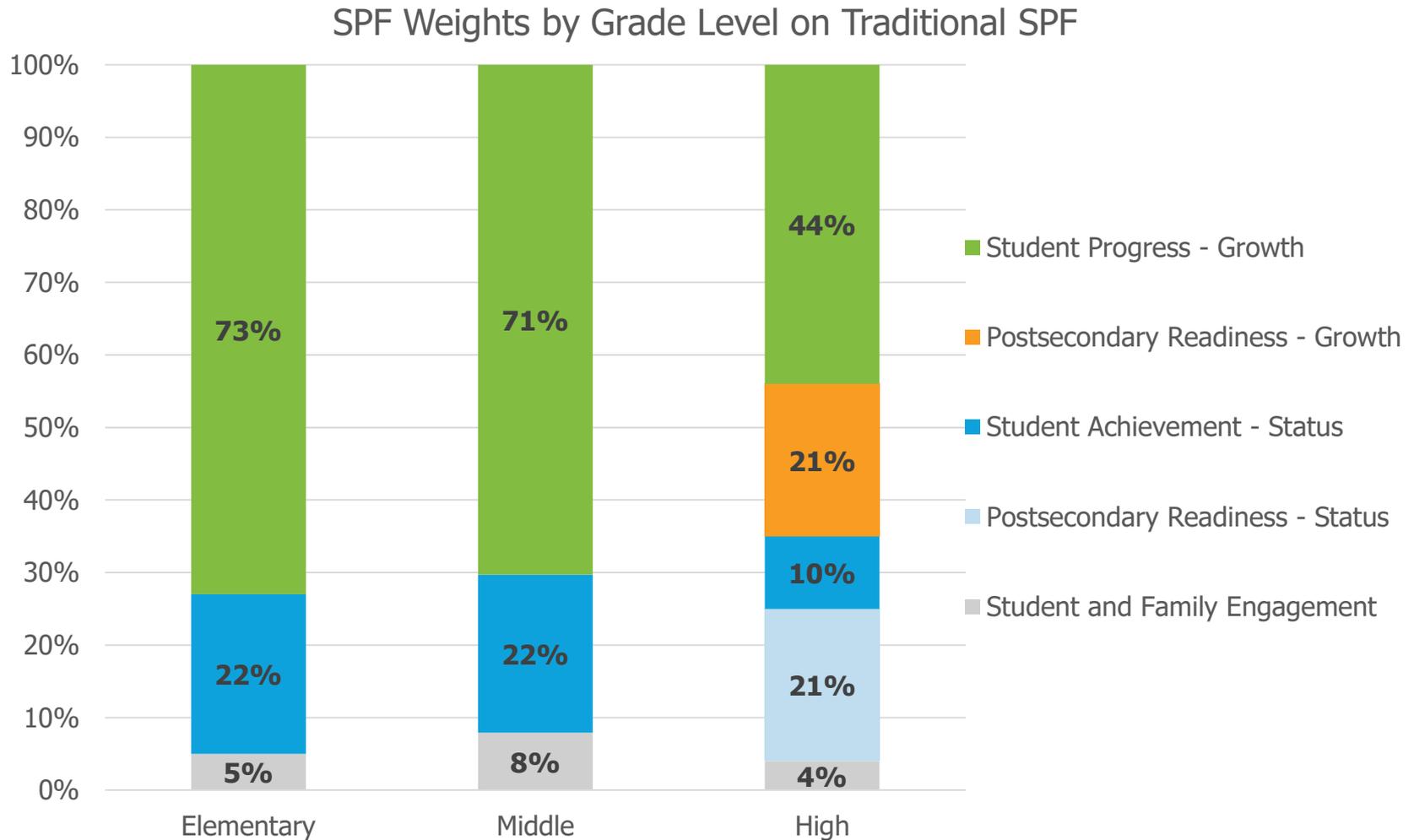
DPS launched the School Performance Framework in 2008

- **The School Performance Framework or SPF is a color-coded rating scale to show at-a-glance how our schools are performing:**
 - **Distinguished/Blue**
 - **Meets Expectations/Green**
 - **Accredited on Watch/Yellow**
 - **Accredited on Priority Watch/Orange**
 - **Accredited on Probation/Red**
- Released annually, the SPF is a management resource to help schools better understand their strengths and development areas, to help us support schools if their performance dips and to guide decisions about schools that have not shown improvement even after extra time and intense support.
- **The SPF also serves as an important information resource for families, ensuring they can easily see how their school is serving kids compared to district expectations.**
- We have high expectations for all of our schools: to make sure our students are prepared for college, career and life when they graduate from DPS.



Context: What Counts on the SPF?

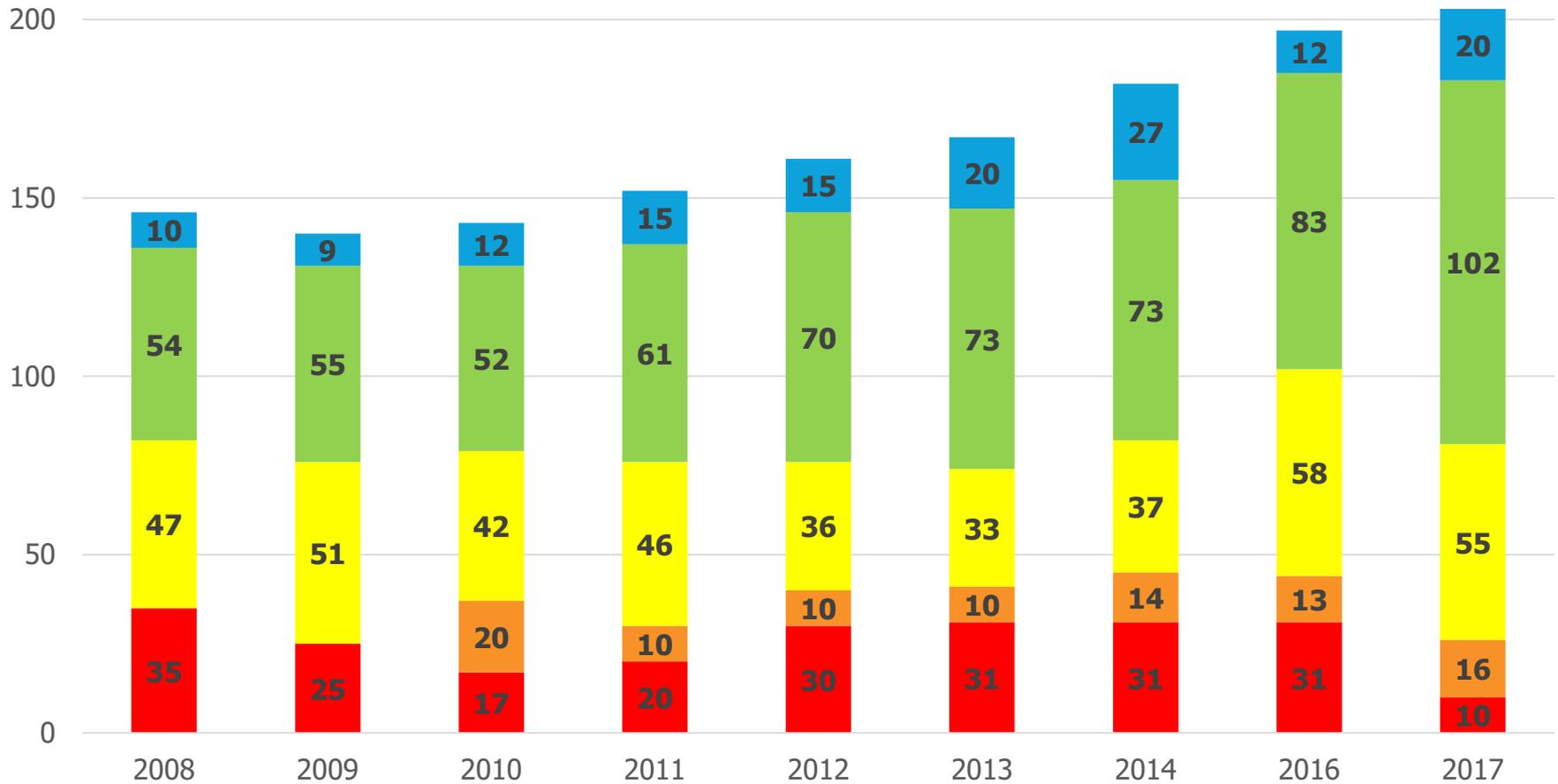
Student academic growth carries the most weight



**In 2017, DPS rated 172 schools on the Traditional SPF, 21 schools on the Alternative SPF and 10 schools on the Early Education SPF.*

2017 Results: Growth over Time

The number of schools achieving the highest Blue or Green ratings has grown as the number receiving the lowest Red rating has declined.

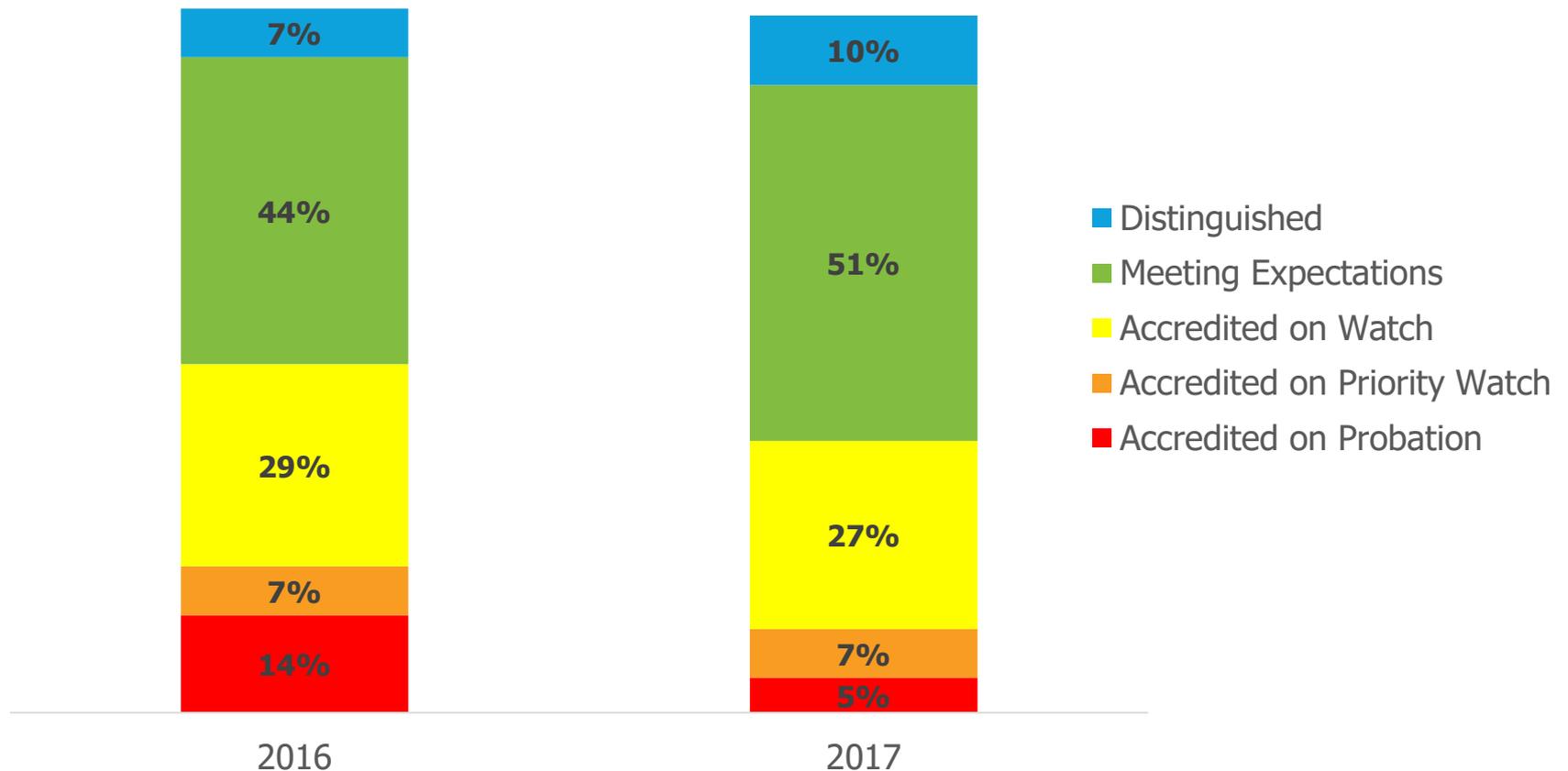


■ Accredited on Probation ■ Accredited on Priority Watch ■ Accredited on Watch ■ Meets Expectations ■ Distinguished

**All frameworks represented; SPF was not published in 2015.*

Growth from 2016 to 2017: Traditional SPF

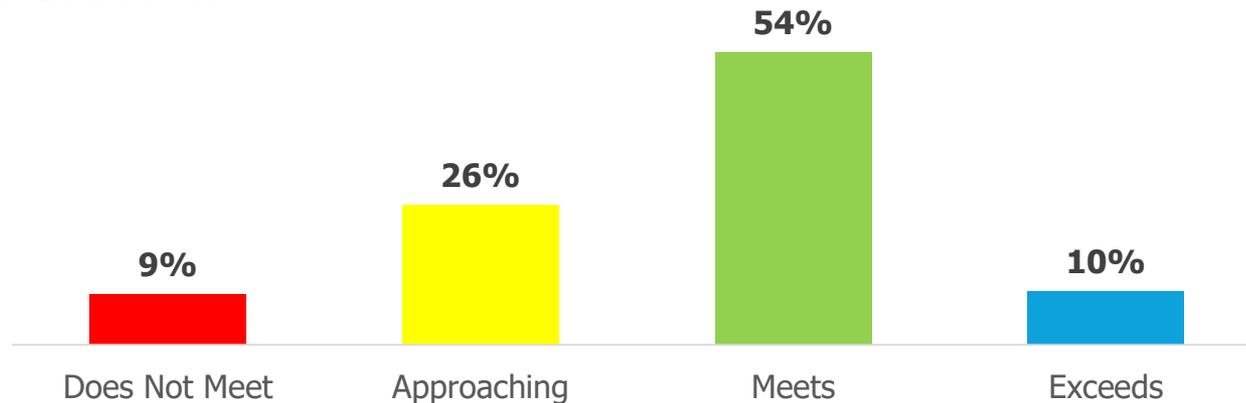
More than half our schools are now meeting district expectations in early literacy, compared to 30% a year ago. This is one reason a third of our schools increased their overall ratings in 2017.



Introducing the Academic Gaps Indicator

Measure is intended to ensure all schools are making progress with all kids

- **In DPS, we believe in the potential of every child and we believe a great school is one that serves, challenges and supports all students well.**
- The Academic Gaps rating measures how well our schools are serving all students, particularly those -- students of color, students in poverty, English language learners and students with disabilities -- who have been historically underserved in our nation's public schools.
- **Schools typically must meet or exceed district expectations in closing academic gaps to receive our highest overall SPF ratings of Meets Expectations/Green or Distinguished/Blue.**
- In our first year, nine schools saw their overall ratings drop and will receive additional supports in closing gaps based on this indicator.
- **Over half of all schools are meeting expectations or are Green on closing academic gaps with their kids. This graph shows the ratings distribution across schools on this indicator.**



Context: What SPF Ratings Mean for Schools

SPF ratings help determine the level of support a school receives

- **All DPS schools – district-run, including innovation, and charter – are held to the same standards on the School Performance Framework.**
- SPF ratings are used to determine the level of supports a school receives:
 - DPS uses a Tiered Support Framework for district-run schools, providing the most intense level of supports to our lowest-performing schools. All schools receive support based on their “tier” – universal, strategic or intensive.
 - For charter schools needing support to meet district expectations, DPS uses the Tiered Quality Assurance process. This primarily supports charters by building the capacity of their school leaders and school boards.
- **If a school continues to struggle despite intensive supports, including a rating of Red on two consecutive SPFs, the school is designated for turnaround under the School Performance Compact, which results in restart (new programs and staff) or closure.**
- Data shows intensive supports and, when necessary, restarts are resulting in better schools for our kids. Nearly 80% of district-run schools that have had intensive interventions since 2010 are performing better than the schools they replaced.
- **Eight new schools opening in 2016-17 received their first SPF ratings in 2017. Six of the eight received the highest ratings of Blue or Green and two received the next highest rating of Yellow. And six “restart” schools opening in 2016-17 also showed strong improvement. Four of the six were rated Blue or Green, one school was Yellow and one was Orange.**

Context: School Performance Compact

Six of seven schools improved enough to get off list for restart, closure

- **The School Performance Compact sets out a clear process for how DPS will identify the most persistently low-performing schools. Under the policy, schools that receive the lowest performance ratings over multiple years are designated for restart or, in the cases of very low enrollment, closure.**
- This policy helps us balance the urgent need to do right by our students with the understanding that change takes time. We make sure schools have time and support to improve, while holding ourselves accountable for the success of every child.
- **Seven schools were identified through the Compact for potential restart or closure. Based on improved results for six of seven schools on the 2017 SPF, only Cesar Chavez is being designated under the Compact.**
 - *The six schools are Castro, Beach Court, Abraham Lincoln, West Early College, Math and Science Leadership Academy (MSLA) and Venture Prep.*
 - *We applaud the work in these schools and believe it shows what's possible when staff, families and community receive intensive supports and work collaboratively to ensure stronger futures for their kids.*
 - *In light of its performance and pursuant to the terms of its charter school contract, Cesar Chavez will close at the end of the 2017-18 school year.*
- **However, the 2017 results identified additional schools that, without improvement on the 2018 SPF, would be subject for designation under the Compact in 2018.**
 - *These schools also will receive intensive supports: Abraham Lincoln, Smith, Venture Prep, MSLA, KIPP Northeast Denver Middle School, Compass Academy Middle School, Hallett, Shoemaker, DCIS at Montbello and Lake International.*

2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Castro Elementary**, a school identified for potential restart or closure, improved from Red, the lowest rating, in 2016 to Green, the second-highest rating in 2017. Castro was one of only three schools to move up three ratings in the past year.
- **Holm Elementary** earned the district's highest rating of Blue. Holm, which serves a student population rich in economic and ethnic diversity (84% students in poverty, 84% students of color and 48% English language learners), was also one of only 18 schools to earn a Blue rating in closing Academic Gaps.
- **Districtwide**, the number of Green and Blue schools has increased from 64 in 2008 to 122 in 2017, reflecting a stronger set of high-quality schools for district families.

