



# The Kindezi Schools

## Reflecting on 2016-17: Our Annual Letter

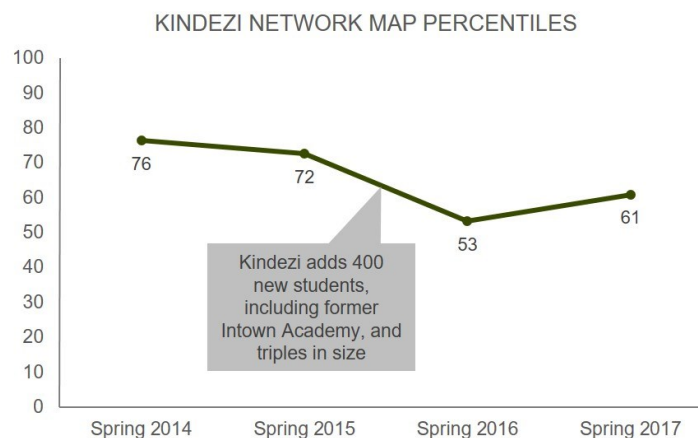
Dear Friends,

**Thank you for supporting Kindezi through another tremendous year!** I'm excited to share our 2016-17 results with you.

This past year was a time of continued growth and evolution for Kindezi. Our students showed strong progress in academics and social-emotional learning as we continued to adapt our curriculum and programming to best meet their needs. Additionally, we spent significant time preparing for the opening of our third campus. That school, Gideons Elementary in southwest Atlanta's Pittsburgh community, represents everything we've been working toward for the past seven years: **truly affecting change for Atlanta by applying our innovations from charter schools to traditional neighborhood schools.**

As you may remember, 2015-16 was a challenging year. We tripled in size and felt the strain of moving from a single small school to a small network. I committed myself to making sure that we bounced back.

**Last year, we improved our curriculum, created more supports for schools, and built out a framework that enables us to recognize and reward excellent teaching.**



As you can see in the chart above, across our network our students showed academic gains on the national MAP test, which measures student growth relative to their peers in and beyond Georgia. I'm proud of all the hard work done by students and teachers represented by the "Spring 2017" data point.

Additionally, our students showed significant progress on the Georgia Milestones test, which measures mastery of the specific content of each grade level.

While there are definitely areas where we need to continue improving, I feel confident in our trajectory.

*Please turn over for more!*

Continued from reverse

I'm also proud of how our students and parents feel about their Kindezi experience.



86% of students report teachers have rigorous expectations.



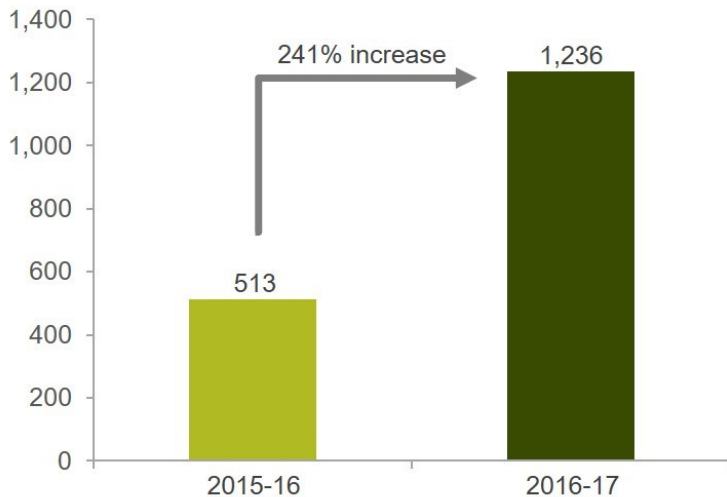
87% of parents satisfied or strongly satisfied with student's experience.



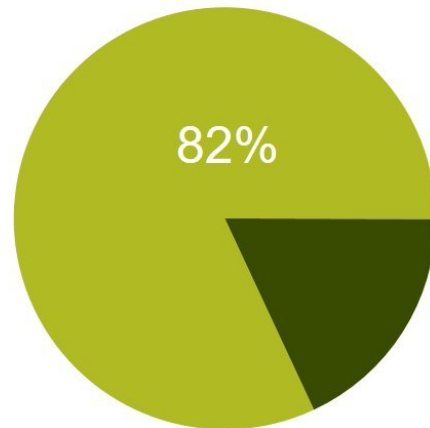
86% of parents satisfied or strongly satisfied with academics.

Lastly, hiring and retaining great teachers is critical to our success. I'm happy to report that in 2016-17 we had the largest, best-qualified pool of teacher applicants we've ever seen. And we retained 82% of our teaching staff from last year to this year.

TEACHER APPLICANTS



TEACHER RETENTION



I'm looking forward to sharing more about Gideons, West and O4W with you in the months to come. I hope you'll stay tuned and continue your support of The Kindezi Schools.

Your neighbor,



Dean Leeper  
Founder & Executive Director  
The Kindezi Schools

# Updates from Our Schools



## GIDEONS: PLANTING THE SEED

2016-17 was the planning year for our very first turnaround of a traditional neighborhood school, Gideons Elementary in the Pittsburgh community of southwest Atlanta. Founding Principal Danielle Washington spent the year visiting other successful turnarounds across the country, building a comprehensive plan for her school, and building relationships throughout the Pittsburgh community. She reaped the benefit of all that we have learned in our seven year history and has also applied her own hard-earned expertise to successfully launch Gideons. We are all eager to see how this school progresses over the coming year.

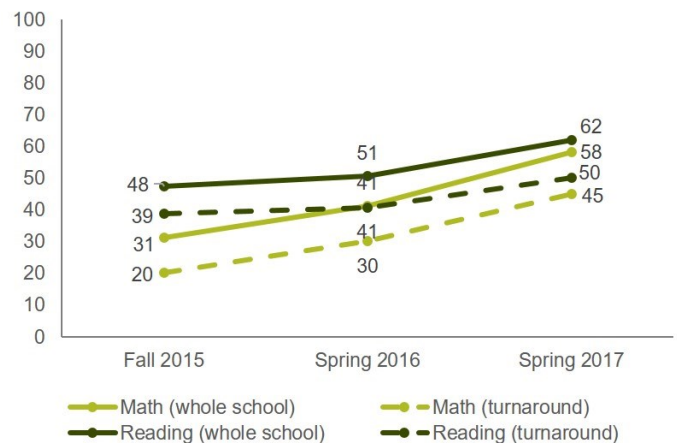


## KINDEZI O4W: GERMINATING & SPROUTING

While only its second year of operation, 2016-17 was another great year of growth for Kindezi Old Fourth Ward.

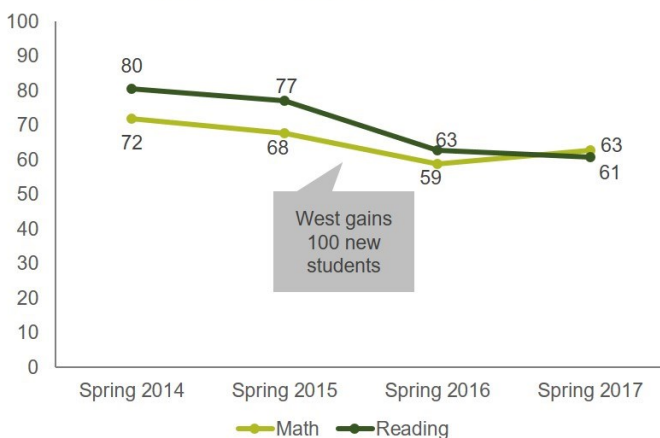
Because of O4W's unique origins as a turnaround of another charter, Intown Academy, we track the grades of Intown's former students with keen interest through their academic careers with us. As can be seen in the graph to the left, both the Intown-Kindezi cohort grades and the O4W school as a whole are showing wonderful improvement.

2016-17 O4W MAP PERCENTILES



## KINDEZI WEST: A RE-ESTABLISHING YEAR

2016-17 WEST MAP PERCENTILES



West is learning to strike a stable balance between rigor and student-centered joy, while continuing to integrate new students at every grade level. West is not impervious to change, as we saw in 2015-16, when it lost a critical mass of talented teachers to the O4W opening and increased its enrollment. The school continues to adapt while preserving its uniquely Kindezi flavor.

# Many thanks to our 2016-2017 donors!

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