

# THRIVING IN THE AFTERMATH OF KATRINA



Devastated by Hurricane Katrina, Edward Hynes Charter School fought back with SFA to rebuild itself and reach new levels of academic success.



# WE HAVE THE ABILITY TO VERTICALLY AND HORIZONTALLY INVOLVE TEACHERS IN THEIR PLANNING TO DISCUSS DATA AND TALK ABOUT OBSERVATION

MICHELLE DOUGLAS, Principal

Assessment Program (LEAP) ELA test, and 90% of fourth graders were proficient. These scores outperformed the state of Louisiana by a healthy margin, despite Hynes's Title I status.

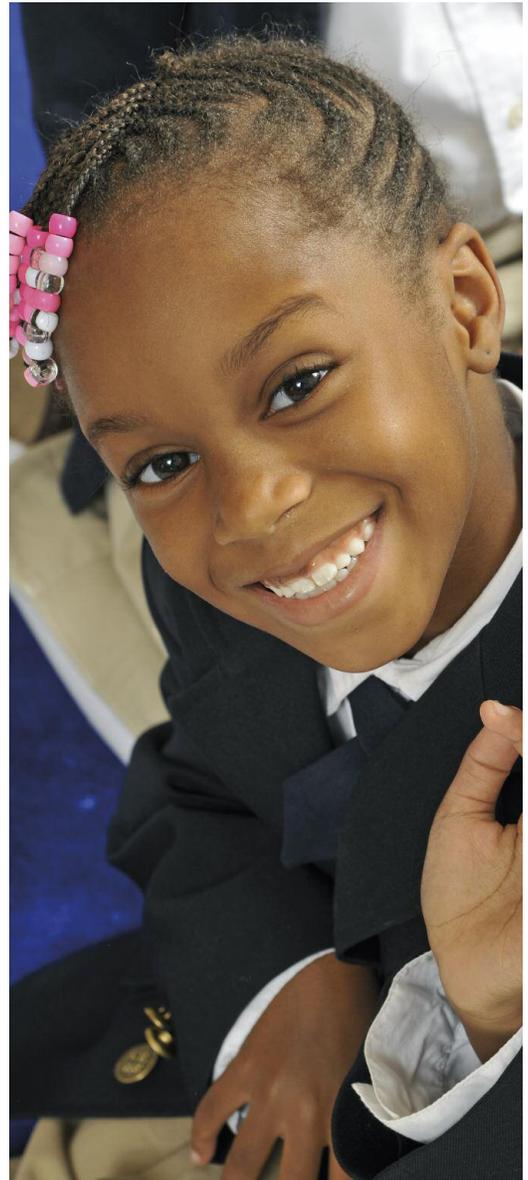
Even so, the school does not rest on its laurels. The prevailing attitude is one of continuous improvement: no matter how well the students are performing, there's always room to get better. "We've bumped up our expectations," says Douglas. "There's so much work to be done."

Striving for continuous improvement is an SFA cornerstone. "It's a whole systemic approach to improvement – a lot of blood, sweat, and tears," says Douglas.

Even though the reading proficiency numbers are striking, the overall positive atmosphere in the school is even more impressive. The staff of Hynes has truly internalized the concept of success for all. Douglas is more concerned with helping the 14% of students the school has charted as "not making the mark," rather than celebrating high scores.

Douglas credits the easy adoption methods of SFA to a number of its professional-development opportunities, especially the annual Experienced Sites Conference. "Beyond any conference I've been to, it's the most useful. It's efficient," she says. "We take eight to 10 teachers there. We shut down the entire school for two days."

On June 26, 2010, the staff and community of Edward Hynes broke ground for a brand-new school complex. Spacious and modern, the finished model more resembles a college campus than an elementary school. It's a fitting image for a staff, community, and student body that has come so far, and yet refuses to stop challenging themselves to do better.



**FOUNDED IN 1987**, the nonprofit Success for All Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that every child, from pre-kindergarten to grade 8, becomes proficient in reading and learning – opening up new doors for a lifetime of achievement. Not only has SFA been proven time and again to help with student reading ability and math performance, it also addresses non-academic concerns, improving behavior, attendance and parental involvement. Please contact us for more information.

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