



**VERITASPREP**  
CHARTER SCHOOL

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**



Veritas Prep Charter School is a grade 5–8 public school. Our school is publicly funded, tuition-free, and non-selective. Our diverse student body mirrors that of Springfield city schools, yet our unique approach places our scholars on a different path.



**VERITASPREP**  
**CHARTER SCHOOL**



## LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Dear Friends,**

Veritas Prep is successful both because of how deeply we care about each other and also how much we expect from one another. Our team is dedicated to getting it right for our scholars. Not only do our scholars achieve at high levels, but in their four years with us, they grow into incredible young men and women who will make great contributions to our world. We've learned as much from them over the years as they have from us. Together, our story is one of students, teachers, leaders, families, and community members supporting each other to raise the bar for ourselves, our scholars and the world around us.

Our scholars in Springfield had another stellar year of learning and achievement, and Veritas Prep expanded our impact to Holyoke. In partnership with the Holyoke Public Schools we launched a new middle school this fall that will serve students in grades 5-8. We will use the successful practices of Veritas Prep Charter School to provide children in Holyoke with a world class education. The opportunity to serve more students in our region is the result of years of hard work by our tenacious Springfield team who has proven that even in our most struggling communities, students can and will achieve at high levels. We remain driven to put every scholar we serve on a path to college and future success. We will keep pushing ourselves to defy the odds and prove what is possible for our scholars in Springfield, and now, in Holyoke.

We couldn't do this work without your support! With this report, we invite you to take a closer look into some of our stories and accomplishments from 2018.

*Sincerely,*

Rachel Romano  
*Executive Director*



A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark t-shirt, is sitting at a desk in a classroom. He is looking down at an open book on his desk, with his head resting on his right hand. In the background, other students are seated at desks, some looking towards the camera and others looking away. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a classroom environment.

# OUR BELIEFS >>>

All students regardless of race, class, or socioeconomic circumstance are entitled to a high quality public education defined by high academic and behavioral expectations.

# WE ARE SERVING OUR SPRINGFIELD COMMUNITY

## Race/Ethnicity of Student Body

Veritas Prep

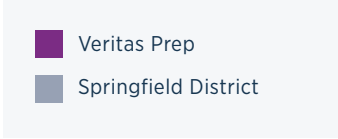


Springfield District

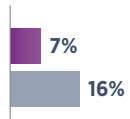


## Special Student Populations

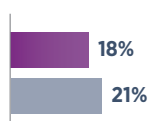
Economically Disadvantaged



English Learners



Students with Disabilities





# OUR MODEL >>>

We maintain **high expectations**.

We believe in **structured environments**.

Our curriculum is **focused on outcomes**.

We use **data to drive instruction**.

Our scholars have **more time to learn**.

We focus on **character development**.

Our **teachers make all the difference**.



**Our teachers** make  
all the difference



## ARRIVAL AND MORNING WORK

Scholars are greeted at the door with a handshake before eating breakfast. During this time, scholars will also complete morning work to get their brains warmed up for the day to come!

We believe in **structured environments.**



## PROBLEM SOLVING

A math class in which scholars grapple with meaty problems before sharing and discussing their solutions as a class.

We use **data to drive instruction**



## MATH PROCEDURES

A fast paced class that has scholars practicing the skills and procedures needed to boost their fluency in mathematics.



## ENRICHMENT

Scholars engage in music, fitness, or performance class every day.





## LITERATURE

Scholars read a high-quality novel and engage in a rigorous class discussion about its overarching themes and plot elements.



## SCIENCE

Scholars learn about the world they live in! Daily lessons involve Earth, Environmental, Life and Physical Science.

Our curriculum  
**is focused on  
outcomes.**



## SOCIAL STUDIES

Scholars study humans and their environment, World Religion, Government, and US & World History.

Our scholars  
have **more  
time to learn.**



## DISMISSAL

After a day of working hard, scholars are dismissed. Many decide to stay after to participate in clubs and activities because of the awesome dedication of our teachers!

# OUR MISSION

**COMPETE**

Our scholars outperform their academic peers



**ACHIEVE**

Our scholars make impressive gains over time

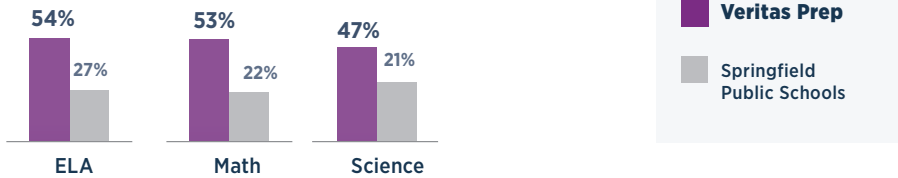
**SUCCEED**

Our scholars succeed in high school on their way to college

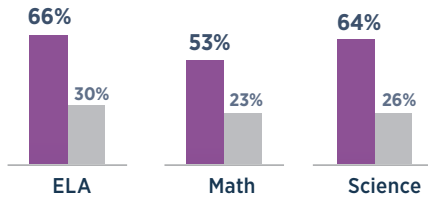
# OUR SCHOLARS COMPARED TO PEERS

2018 MCAS Student Scores Across Grades 5-8 (% Proficient or Advanced)

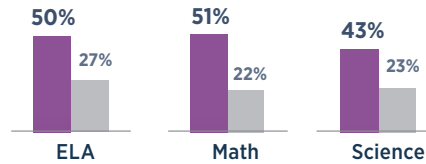
## General Student Body



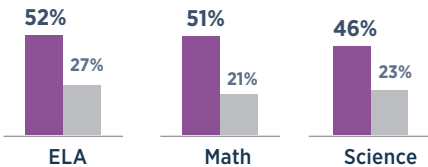
## African American



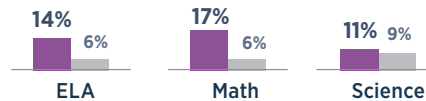
## Hispanic/Latino



## Economically Disadvantaged



## Students with Disabilities



## STUDENT PROFILE

JENISHA  
POKHREL

VPCS 5TH GRADER

"I love Veritas Prep!" Jenisha exclaims! Jenish Pokhrel is a fifth grade scholar, new to Veritas Prep this year. "I'm learning way more than I did in my old school. It's challenging but the teachers make sure we are understanding the material. This school has made me a better student. Teachers give us really hard work, but they don't give up on us. I get one-on-one tutoring so if I don't understand something, I get the help I need." Jenisha believes that past teachers didn't seem to care as much as these teachers do. She believes she works harder now than in lower grades because she feels that the kids show determination and all the DRIVE values and then are able to earn great things. "I earn Rock Star Monday every week which is great because I work hard and then I earn a special incentive.

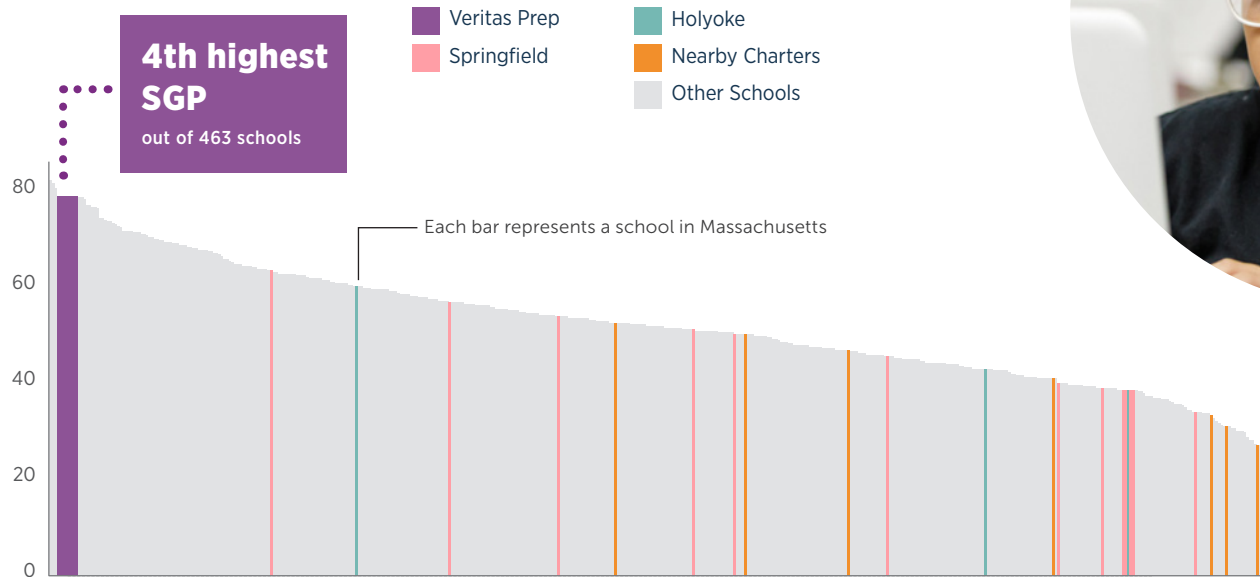
She sets and works toward goals in all of her subjects and believes she has improved in math, reading, and writing. She uses the strategies she's learned from her teachers and they have really helped her reach her goals. "Teachers here make it fun to learn and I look forward to school each day. I know the teachers want us to have a bright future. I plan on being a doctor to help make families happy and healthy. I want to make my parents proud by working hard for my future. And my 6 year old sister can't wait to come to Veritas Prep!"

## 8TH GRADE MATH

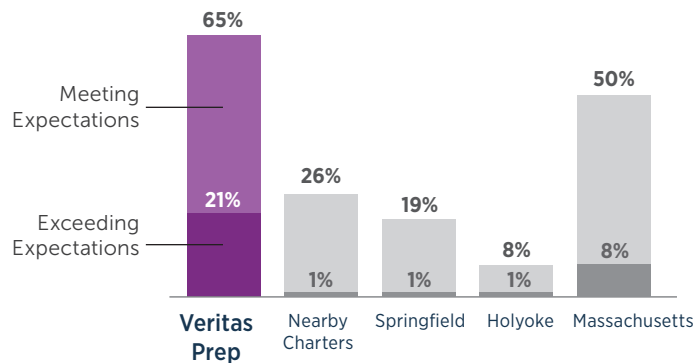
Veritas' 8th grade math SGP of 76.4 was the fourth highest out of 463 eighth grade classes in the state (Rank 4/463 schools=99th percentile)



### STUDENT GROWTH PERCENTILE



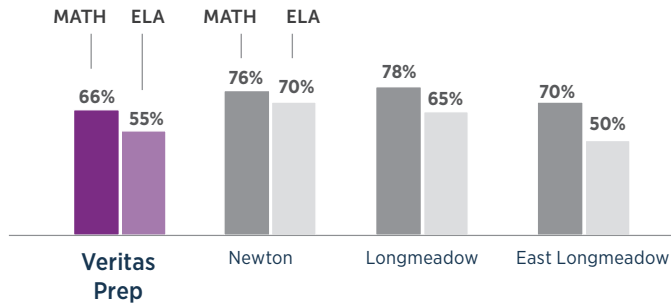
### PERCENTAGE MEETING & EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS | 8TH GRADE MATH



# 5TH GRADE—COMPARISON TO ELITE SCHOOLS

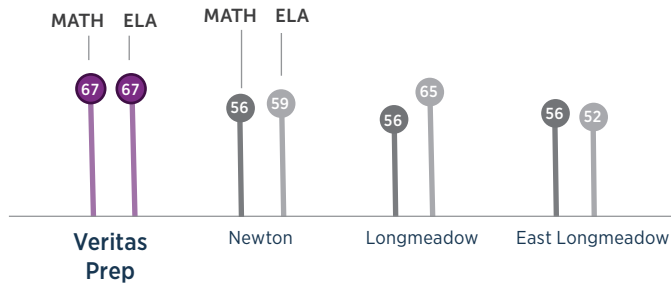
## PERCENTAGE MEETING & EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

We are competing with some of the best schools in the state.



## AVERAGE STUDENT GROWTH PERCENTILE

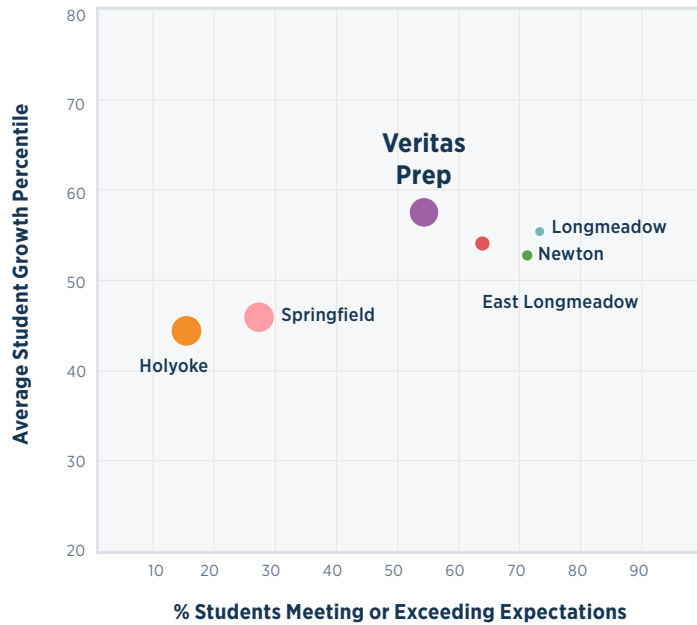
Our students are improving faster than those in this group of elite schools.



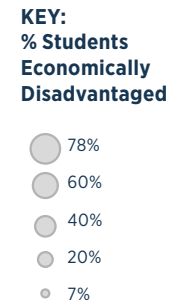
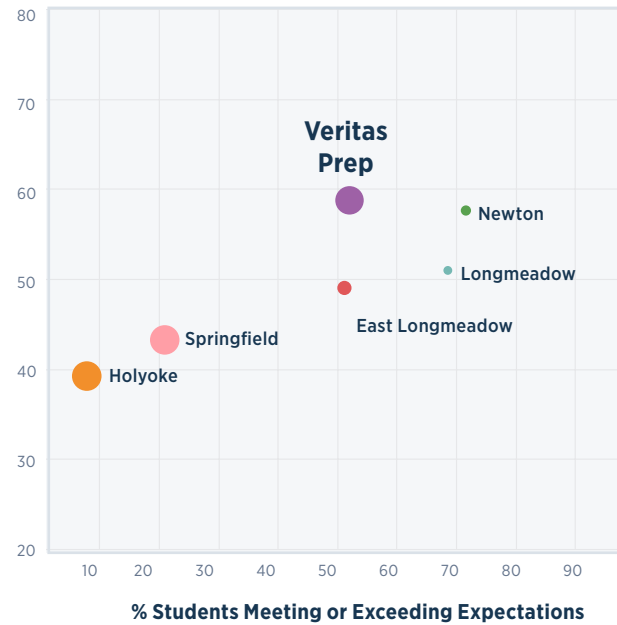
## ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS

We are serving our economically disadvantaged community *and* performing well on MCAS.

**ELA GRADES 5-8**



**MATH GRADES 5-8**



## SPECIAL STUDENT POPULATIONS

Our students with disabilities and English language learners are thriving compared to the Massachusetts state average.

### STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES | 8TH GRADE MATH

**37%**

of our students with disabilities met or exceeded expectations

Compared to...

**12%**

Massachusetts avg.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS | 5TH GRADE MATH

**40%**

of our ELL students met or exceeded expectations

Compared to...

**13%**

Massachusetts avg.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS | 5TH GRADE ELA

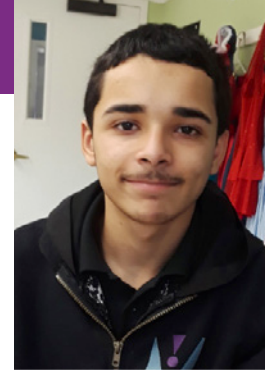
**30%**

of our ELL students met or exceeded expectations

Compared to...

**13%**

Massachusetts avg.



## STUDENT PROFILE

GIOVANNI  
TOSADO

6TH GRADER

Veritas Prep has changed Gio for the better, as a student and as a person he says. When Gio was in elementary school, he didn't take school seriously and often would just joke and fool around with friends. Once at Veritas Prep, he realized that it was a serious school with serious learning going on. "I chose the wrong set of friends before who just wanted to joke around, but now we are all working hard and staying focused. I save the fooling around fun for after school," he explained. He loves his teachers. "My advisory is a really close community so we take care of each other and the teachers take care of us. When a class gets off track they don't just yell or move on, they teach us how to do the right thing." Then at the end of the week, all scholars have Club time which Gio says helps him to relax after so much work all week and learn something new and fun. He's been in the Environmental club and is currently in the Muay Tai club which is a form of boxing. He knows that VPCS is focused on preparing scholars for their futures. Gio plans on playing sports in high school so he knows he needs to earn good grades. "As the years go by the learning gets harder but here at VPCS I feel like the teachers will get me to understand so I'll be ready for high school."

A photograph of a classroom where several students are seated at desks, focused on their work. They are using laptops and looking at books. The students are diverse in age and ethnicity. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the students in the foreground.

# OUR MISSION

**COMPETE**

Our scholars outperform their academic peers

**ACHIEVE**

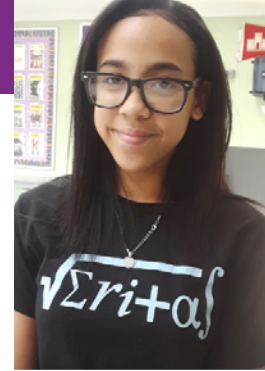
Our scholars make impressive gains over time



**SUCCEED**

Our scholars succeed in high school on their way to college



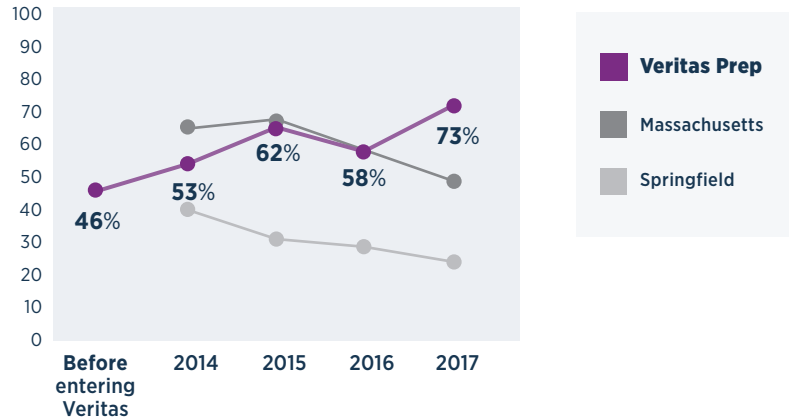


## STUDENT PROFILE

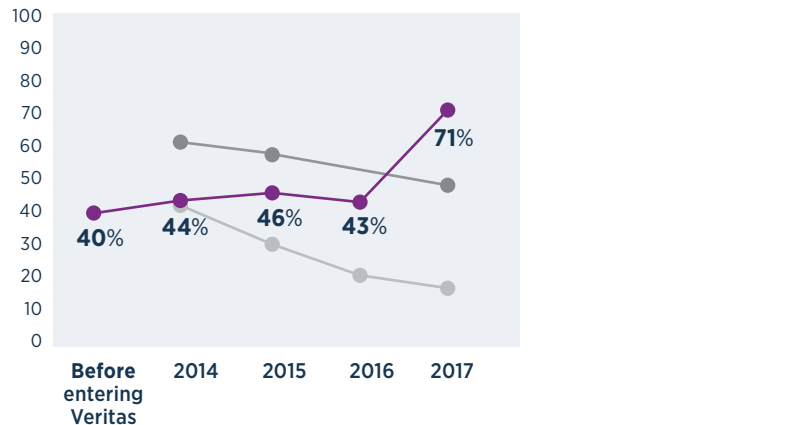
**ELIZABETH ZACHARY**  
7TH GRADER

# CLASS OF 2018 SCORES OVER TIME

### ELA MCAS/PARCC Scores



### Math MCAS/PARCC Scores



“Veritas Prep expects responsibility” explains Elizabeth Zachary. “If you don’t do what you need to do, there are consequences.” When Elizabeth followed in her older sister’s footsteps to Veritas Prep, she knew it was going to be challenging and that she would have to work harder than she had in elementary school to keep her grades up. “I learned to be responsible very quickly. My other schools didn’t care about uniforms or homework, but here I am responsible because I don’t want a negative consequence.” She likes the rewards she gets for working hard, including Rock Star Monday—she likes to dress down—and the monthly incentive. “The monthly incentive reminds us to keep doing well so we earn privileges. That keeps me focused.”

Elizabeth wanted to be different than other classmates, so she joined the strings program in fifth grade. She has enjoyed learning a new skill like playing an instrument because not everyone can do that. “It makes me feel smarter, and I also joined the choir, so I can sing with my friends” she added. “I feel like the teachers put the time in, so we can understand. They could be home with their families, but instead they stay here to make sure we have a bright future.” She says she has become a stronger student in her three years at VPCS because she earns good grades. “I want to get into a good college and impress my family, so I do the work.”

# OUR MISSION

**COMPETE**

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**ACHIEVE**

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**SUCCEED**

Our scholars succeed in high school on their way to college

like this  
#Lawless

# OUR GRADUATES ARE ENROLLED IN THESE HIGH SCHOOLS



## STUDENT PROFILE

TAE-VAUGHN  
J. SMITH

8TH GRADER

When Tae-Vaughn Smith first attended VPCS, he didn't like it very much. He didn't like how strict it was. Even his older sister who was in the inaugural class at VPCS gave him advice. "Don't go starting trouble at this school. Doing what they say at this school will better your future," she warned. Tae-Vaughn says he's changed a lot since that first year. "I've matured. I wouldn't get started on work because I was a follower and would wait to see what others would do. This school has built me into a leader," he says proudly. He says he learns a lot each day because of how much work there is to do everyday. "We have all the classes, and then in the tutoring block we can get individualized help from the teachers so I always feel like even if the work is really hard, my teachers will help me to understand."

Tae-Vaughn thinks VPCS teachers work so hard and he never attended a school where teachers care that much. Tae-Vaughn is a Student Ambassador which allows him to help with projects around the school, talk about ideas for activities, and as a leader, he shows other scholars how to act by following the rules. Tae-Vaughn understands now why Veritas Prep is the way it is. "The more strict, the more you learn. The more you learn, the better job you'll get and a better future you'll have."

# FINANCIALS



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## FINANCIALS

### OPERATING REVENUES

Tuition	\$3,943,345
Government Grants & Funding	\$499,312
Private Funding	\$191,457
Student Program Funding	\$223,602
Interest / investment Income	\$2,030
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>\$4,859,747</b>

### OPERATING EXPENSES

Personnel costs	\$3,254,659
Administration costs	\$267,435
Instructional services	\$478,919
Pupil and community Services	\$38,184
Operations and Fixed Charges	\$784,752
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,823,948</b>

### CURRENT EQUITY

Changes in unrestricted net assets from operations	\$35,799
Net Capital Investments	\$259,785
Unrestricted Net Assets (Beginning of year)	\$697,379
Unrestricted Net Assets (End of year)	\$529,453

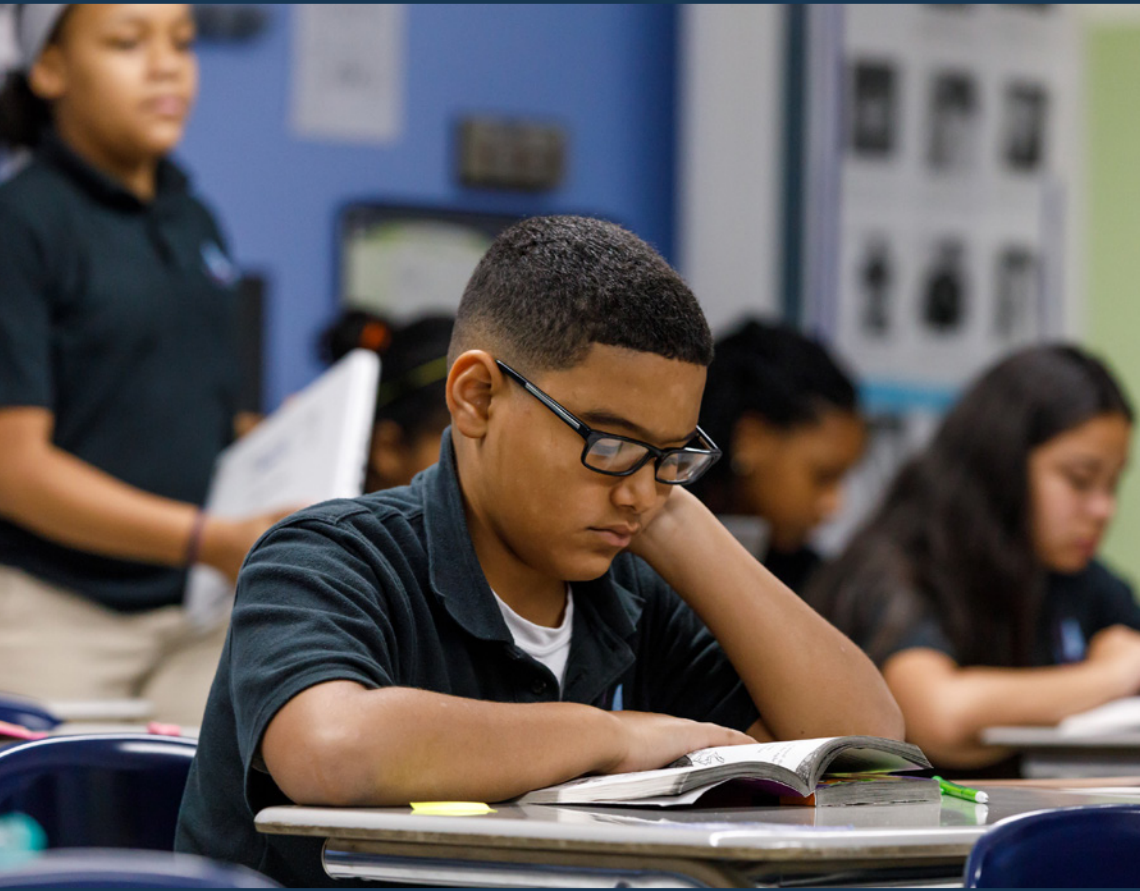


Our scholars are **defying expectations** in a city where only 1 in 2 children are expected to graduate.





At Veritas Prep, **we're setting the bar for excellence** in one of Massachusetts's most challenged cities.



Our scholars are proof that **strong schools** and **great teaching** can change the trajectory of a child's life and put them back on a path to **academic success**.