

**Empowerment Academy Charter School  
SY2016-2017 Academic Results**

The State of New Jersey does not begin to measure scholar learning growth through the administration of state assessments until Grade Three. To measure the learning growth of our scholars in younger grade levels, we administer *Terra Nova* Reading and Math Assessments to our Kindergartners, First Graders and Second Graders each May.

*Terra Nova* assessments are administered all throughout the United States. This permits a “national norming” of student test scores. In other words, it allows us to compare our scholars’ learning growth to that of their age-level peers all throughout the United States.

A *Terra Nova* “Grade Mean Equivalent “ (GME) score of 1.0 means that a scholar has the academic skills of the average American child on the first day of First Grade. A GME score of 1.1 means that a scholar has the academic skills of the average American child after one month of First Grade. Thus, a GME score *gain* of 0.1 means that a scholar has achieved what equates to one month of learning growth for the average American child.

Since the school year at most America schools is 10 months long, a GME score gain of 1.0 means that a scholar has achieved what equates to one full grade level of learning growth for the average American child.

We compared the GME scores of our SY16-17 Second and First Graders to their GME scores the previous May to measure the learning growth of these scholars over the span of a year.

**Scholars’ SY16-17 Reading Gains  
(1.0 GME Gain = 1 Grade Level of Learning Gains)**

<b>SY16-17 Grade Level</b>	<b>Scholars’ Avg. GME Score In May SY16-17</b>	<b>Scholars’ Avg. GME Score in May SY15-16</b>	<b>Scholars’ Avg. GME Gain During Year</b>
Second Graders	4.0	2.3	1.7
First Graders	2.1	1.0	1.1

**Scholars’ SY16-17 Math Gains  
(1.0 GME Gain = 1 Grade Level of Learning Gains)**

<b>SY16-17 Grade Level</b>	<b>Scholars’ Avg. GME Score In May SY16-17</b>	<b>Scholars’ Avg. GME Score in May SY15-16</b>	<b>Scholars’ Avg. GME Gain in Year</b>
Second Graders	3.5	2.2	1.3
First Graders	2.0	1.1	.9

You will note that, on average, our young scholars made MUCH GREATER learning gains in SY16-17 than their peers across the country:

- In Reading, our first graders made learning gains that were 10% greater than their peers across the country, and our second graders made learning gains that were 70% greater than their peers across the country.
- In Math, our first graders made learning gains that were 10% lower than their peers across the country, but our second graders made learning gains that were 30% greater than their peers across the country.

SY16-17 was just our second year of operations, but the research-based elements of our education program are once again proving their effectiveness.

We will make refinements to our education program that make it even more effective and that lead to consistent academic outperformance by our scholars in ALL subject areas and at ALL grade levels.