

Urban Advantage Interim Report Summary of Findings

May 2010

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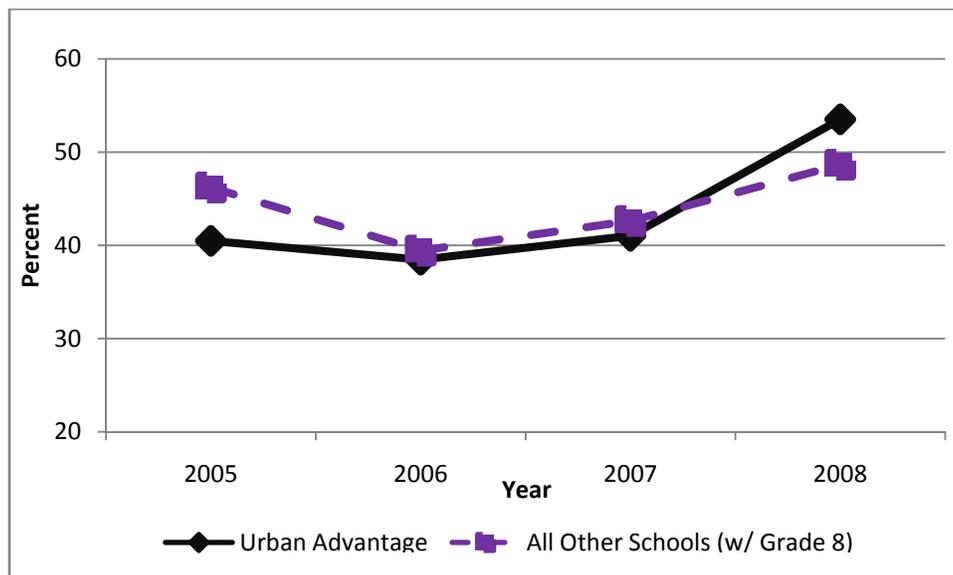
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Urban Advantage (UA) is a comprehensive program, managed by the American Museum of Natural History in partnership with seven New York City science-rich cultural institutions, designed to improve scientific learning and investigation in middle schools in New York City by providing professional development to teachers, school administrators, and parent coordinators along with resources to schools, students, and families. UA takes advantage of the wealth of intellectual and institutional capacity available in the city and facilitates access to those resources for the city's students. This report presents the first results of the study being conducted by the Institute for Education and Social Policy at New York University of the first five years of UA.

Briefly, we find that:

- In science, UA schools outperformed non-UA schools in 2007-08 with an average of 54 percent of students meeting the standards on the 8th Grade New York State Science Examination, compared to 46 percent of students at non-UA schools

Figure 1. Percent Scoring at Level 3 or 4, UA and Non-UA Schools by Year



- UA has grown from serving 8th grade only in 31 schools in 2004-05 to serving 155 schools and over 27,000 New York City public school students in 7th and 8th grade in 2007-08. Schools are located in all five boroughs and 51 City Council Districts.
- UA schools are, on average, demographically similar to other NYC schools serving 8th graders. However, there is much diversity across UA schools. Schools participating in UA vary by size, grades served, and demographic characteristics of their students.