

## B-1: Set big goals

### What makes goals ambitious and feasible?

**Ambitious** goals aim for all students to achieve at a level beyond what some people (including the students themselves) may think is possible and set students up for future academic success.

**Feasible** goals represent an attainable reach beyond students' beginning knowledge and skills.

Before the school year starts, you can use historical data to set a goal that is likely to be ambitious and feasible for the average student, but in order to ensure that the goal is ambitious and feasible for all students, you should administer a diagnostic at the beginning of the year and tailor your goal based on the results.

Big Goal	Ambitious?	Feasible?	Why?
<p><i>10th grade English</i></p> <p>80% of kids will reach 80% average mastery of 10<sup>th</sup> grade English standards.</p>	No	Yes	The goal is not ambitious for all students because it leaves out 20% of students.
<p><i>4th grade Reading</i></p> <p>Students will be reading on an 8th grade level at the end of the year.</p>	Yes	No	The goal is not feasible because entering 4 <sup>th</sup> graders most probably do not have the incoming skills and knowledge required to set them up to read on an 8 <sup>th</sup> grade level by the end of the school year.
<p><i>3rd grade</i></p> <p>Each student will grow 1.5 grade levels in reading, from their baseline score to their end-of-year assessment, as measured by the DRA</p>	Yes	Yes	The goal represents a great amount of growth for each student and is based on each student's beginning reading level.
<p><i>Middle School Math</i></p> <p>Each student will reach or exceed an 80% average for the first 8 standards of Algebra I by the end of the 1st semester.</p>	Yes	Yes	This goal sets students up to move onto the next level of math in a short period time and, by requiring an average mastery, can be tailored to each student based on incoming knowledge and skills.