



The mission of Schwarzkoff Elementary School is to work collaboratively with all members of the school community to provide opportunities for all students to acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to be self-reliant, responsible, caring and contributing members of society.

Schwarzkoff Elementary

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

8401 Constitution • Sterling Heights, MI 48313 • 586.797.6300
Principal Michael P. Hardy • Average Daily Attendance 97%

Our school is state and nationally accredited

Schwarzkoff Elementary School is accredited by both the North Central Association (NCA) Commission on School Accreditation and Improvement and Michigan's Education YES! legislation – as are all 40 schools in the Utica Community Schools district. Accreditation certifies that our schools meet recommended standards for quality education for all students.

NCA is a regional agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education that establishes demanding standards for public and non-public schools. As a participant school, we have undertaken a rigorous NCA-monitored process for continuous school improvement. Our staff works together within the process to identify goals for improving student achievement, implement strategies to meet our goals and utilize recommended assessments to accurately measure progress.

Education YES! is the state's report card accreditation system for public schools. Schools are assigned letter grades based largely on their long-term performance on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and other indicators.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), a standard set by the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, is also part of the report card.

Whether a school makes AYP is based on these factors:

- MEAP scores of all students in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics
- MEAP ELA and Mathematics scores of student subgroups*
- 95 percent participation of all students on the MEAP tests
- student attendance or graduation rate.

*Student subgroups include Ethnic Origin, Economically Disadvantaged, English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities.

All UCS teachers meet the Highly Qualified standard

As mandated by the federal No Child Left Behind legislation, all Utica Community Schools teachers in core academic subject areas, such as English, reading, language arts, science (physics, chemistry, biology, earth science or physical science), mathematics, government and civics, history, economics, geography, foreign languages, fine arts or elementary education, have met the law's Highly Qualified requirements.

In addition, all UCS teachers possess a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university. All have also met State of Michigan certification requirements and successfully completed the district's own rigorous selection process.

Three-quarters of UCS teachers possess master's degrees and many have also completed course work or degrees beyond the master's level.

Newly hired teachers are assigned an experienced mentor teacher, and all teachers, new and experienced, are regularly observed and evaluated by their building administrators as they work with students. UCS teachers are required to participate in continuous professional development programming, and all new teachers must meet additional professional development requirements.

Our points of pride

- North Central Accreditation
- Improved MEAP scores
- Schwarzkoff placed 3rd at the Macomb County Science Olympiad
- Academically Talented and Gifted Program
- Social Studies Olympiad and Math Olympiad
- Schwarzkoff Website
- Cougar Kids Art Gallery and Cougar Kid's Courier
- Schwarzkoff Health Team won the Giraffe Award and second place from St. Joseph Mercy Macomb Hospital
- Student Health Team - S.W.A.T. (Schwarzkoff Wellness Alert Team)
- Schwarzkoff Volunteer Group — Donuts with Dad, Muffins with Mom, Daddy/Daughter Dance, Bingo Night, Family Restaurant Nights, Santa Shop and Field Day are examples of how our volunteer group goes above and beyond for our Cougars.
- Schwarzkoff Variety Show, "A Celebration of Entertainment"
- Escape School - Pixley Funeral Home
- Sterling Heights Police Dept. D.A.R.E.
- Sixth graders learn AHA Friends and Family CPR with Sterling Heights Fire Department
- Student Council - Cougar Council
- First Grade Science Day
- Vocal Music Programs and Recorder
- Karate for Third Grade
- Band and Strings Evening Concerts
- Community Service/Charity Support:
 - Fourth grade MS Walk earned more than \$2,800
 - Jump Rope for Heart - \$2,000
 - Toys for Tots
 - Kiwanis Club

Schwarzkoff Report Card

AYP 2005: Yes
AYP 2006: Yes

Education YES! Grades:
2005 - B
2006 - A

MEAP summary on page 3

School improvement boosts student achievement

Utica Community Schools continually works to strengthen its educational programs by implementing proven school improvement initiatives designed to increase all aspects of student learning and achievement. Following is an update of ongoing district-wide school improvement initiatives, all of which impact our school:

State and Federal Legislation

- Monitor progress of State of Michigan Education YES! accreditation and North Central Association (NCA) accreditation processes.
- Implement new high school graduation requirements, known as the Michigan Merit Curriculum in effect for the 2011 graduating class.*
- Implement the Reading First initiatives at Burr, Dresden and Wiley Elem. schools.

Curriculum Design

- Monitor alignment of grades K-12 core content areas of English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science and Social Studies with revised state standards.
- Facilitate and support co-curricular programs.
- Differentiate instruction so that all students can achieve and meet state standards.
- Implement and monitor the state-mandated high school content expectations.*
- Monitor secondary English Language Learners curriculum reform.*

Instructional Practices

- Monitor and adjust alignment of math, science, foreign language, physical education, fine arts and career and technology education curricula with national and state standards.
- Facilitate technology use in the teaching and learning process at all levels.
- Support interdisciplinary instruction at all levels.
- Support auxiliary instructional programs such as alternative education and adult education.
- Continue implementation of Best Practices across the curriculum incorporating 21st Century skills.
- Implement and evaluate intervention programs targeting a range of student needs.
- Monitor implementation and progress of the schools' plans to improve student writing for grades K-6.
- Implement and monitor secondary level Reading Apprenticeship initiatives.*

Assessment

- Analyze and communicate standardized test data.
- Monitor the implementation of common assessments and common course outlines for grades 9-12.
- Evaluate current ELL program design in grades K-9.*

Staff Development

- Facilitate staff development aligned with the North Central Association school improvement process, the federal No Child Left Behind law and Michigan's Education YES! legislation.

Behavioral Initiatives

- Monitor implementation of a comprehensive, standards-based guidance and counseling program in grades K-12.
- Monitor and continue implementation of anti-drug, alcohol and tobacco initiatives at all grade levels.
- Continue communicating updated UCS safety and security procedures to staff, students, parents and community.
- Continue promoting the Success Skills program in all grades.

Parent/Community Involvement

- Continue parent, business and community involvement initiatives.

*New initiatives in the 2006-2007 school year.

UCS graduation rate remains high

Estimated data from the Michigan Department of Education indicates an average annual dropout rate of less than two percent at the district's four high schools.

The percentage of ninth graders who will graduate within four years if they remain in Utica Community Schools for their high school experience, is shown below.

Latest estimated data from the Michigan Dept. of Education

	2004	2005
UCS Dropout Rate	1.86%	.93%
Retention Rate	98.14	99.07
Graduation Rate**	92.66	96.22

** UCS students who graduate in four years. Data does not include students who remain in school and graduate at a later date.

UCS curriculum is standards-based

In Utica Community Schools, the core curriculum is based on national, state and district standards.

As indicated by the district-wide school improvement initiatives (at left), the curriculum is constantly reviewed and updated to assure that every student has the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills necessary for success in the 21st Century workplace.

The UCS *Learning Links*, a district publication available on our website www.uticak12.org, clearly defines the learning standards UCS students can be expected to achieve in each area of study at each grade level. By reviewing the *Learning Links*, parents/guardians can track their child's progress throughout the school year

In addition, UCS curriculum and scheduling procedures are designed to ensure that every student is enrolled in core academic classes each year and remain challenged and encouraged to achieve at higher levels.

MEAP scores

All public school students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 11 took the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests during the 2005-2006 school year. MEAP is a criterion referenced test, meaning it measures a student's achievement on state-defined learning standards in each grade.

The following charts indicate the state target scores for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in Mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA - reading and writing), and the percentage of Schwarzkoff Elementary students who met or exceeded MEAP proficiency standards.

Under the national No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, all students, including those in the identified subgroups, must meet the target scores in order for the school to make AYP.

Schools also must meet attendance or graduation requirements and 95 percent of all students must take the MEAP tests. The scores of subgroups with fewer than 10 students were not reported by the state, but were included in the total scores for all students.

Overall MEAP Science and Social Studies scores are reported below, but are not factored into AYP.

	ELA - Gr. 3 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 3 State Target - 56		ELA - Gr. 4 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 4 State Target - 56	
	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient
All Students	82	89	87	86	105	82	106	87
Males	43	93	46	91	62	81	62	89
Females	39	85	41	80	43	84	44	84
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Hispanic	<10		<10		<10		<10	
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	69	93	74	85	96	81	97	87
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	10	60	11	64	20	60	21	67
English Language Learners	<10		<10		11	55	11	73
Students with Disabilities	11	91	13	77	13	69	13	77
District	2,092	84	2,106	90	2,226	81	2,242	86
State	116,892	78	117,848	87	117,272	76	118,193	82

	ELA - Gr. 5 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 5 State Target - 56		ELA - Gr. 6 State Target - 48		Math - Gr. 6 State Target - 56	
	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient	>95% participation Number Tested	Percent Proficient
All Students	104	76	104	66	108	87	110	76
Males	47	74	47	81	56	82	57	72
Females	57	77	57	54	52	92	53	81
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		10	100	10	100
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Hispanic	<10		<10		<10		<10	
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	94	79	94	67	94	85	96	74
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	20	60	20	35	22	73	22	45
English Language Learners	<10		<10		11	55	11	45
Students with Disabilities	<10		<10		10	50	11	55
District	2,172	82	2,180	79	2,234	86	2,241	75
State	119,992	75	120,726	73	123,444	73	124,297	65

	Science Gr. 5 Percent Proficient	Soc. Studies Gr. 6 Percent Proficient
	All Students	74
District	82	87
State	77	78

Special Education

Utica Community Schools provides a full range of services for students in these special education categories:

- Autistic Impaired
- Hearing Impaired
- Learning Disabled
- Emotionally Impaired
- Speech and Language Impaired
- Cognitively Impaired
- Early Childhood Development Delay
- Visually Impaired
- Physically or Otherwise Health Impaired

Approximately 3,800 students are enrolled in the district's special education programs.

Placement of a student into special education programming is based on the recommendation of the Individual Educational Planning (IEP) team, which is comprised of appropriate school district staff members and the student's parents/guardians.

In general, students requiring special education are well served by district programs. However, in certain cases, a student's needs may be better met by one of the programs provided by the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD). In the 2005-2006 school year, 264 students from the Utica Community Schools district attended MISD school sites.



Schwarzkoﬀ Elementary's NCA school improvement goals

As a participant school in the North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, our staff has developed important school improvement goals that are specific to the needs of the students in our building. The goals, implementation strategies and assessment measures are as follows:

- **All students will move toward proficiency in writing across the curriculum.**

Interventions:

Teachers will provide opportunities to write for a variety of audiences and purposes. Teachers and support staff will use the writing process to move students toward writing proficiency.

Teachers and staff will guide students in the process of answering questions by restating the question and using supporting details (constructed response).

Data sources used to determine student performance on the goal:

Grade 4 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) English Language Arts (ELA) standardized test, February 2005; October 2005-2007.

Grade 2 Specific Writing Prompt with Four-Point District Rubric - "A Time I Got Hurt" theme, May 2005-2007.

Grade 6 Specific Writing Prompt with Six-Point District Rubric - "Choices" theme, May 2005-2007.

- **All students will improve their reading comprehension skills as applied across the curriculum.**

Interventions:

Teachers will provide opportunities to write for a variety of audiences and purposes. Teachers and support staff will use the writing process to move students towards writing proficiency.

Teachers and staff will guide students in the process of answering questions by restating the question and using supporting details (constructed response).

Data sources used to determine student performance on the goal:

Grade 4 MEAP ELA standardized test, February 2005; October 2005-2007.

Grade 3 Metropolitan Achievement Test (MAT8), October 2004; Stanford 10, Winter 2006-2007.

Grade 6 QRI (Qualitative Reading Inventory), May 2005-2007.

Grade 1 Rigby PM Benchmark Kit, May 2005-2007

- **All students demonstrate growth in their social studies knowledge.**

Interventions:

Teachers and support staff will help students improve informational reading comprehension skills.

Teachers and support staff will increase student awareness of connection between social studies and real-world economics.

Teacher and support staff will teach students skills to increase knowledge of civic awareness.

Data sources used to determine student performance on the goal:

Grade 5 MEAP Social Studies standardized test, February 2005; October 2005-2007.

Grade 3 MAT8 (Metropolitan Achievement Test), October 2004; Stanford 10, Winter 2006-2007.

Grade 6 Grade-Level Vocabulary Assessment (Part A-Economic Concepts, Part B-Core Democratic Values), May 2005-2007.

Parent-teacher conference participation

Utica Community Schools encourages parents/guardians to take an active role in their child's education and to become involved with school activities. Participation in Parent-Teacher Conferences is one of the best ways for parents to monitor their child's academic progress. Parent/guardian participation in the fall conferences at Schwarzkoﬀ Elementary was 96 percent in 2004 and 99 percent in 2005.

Thank you for taking time to read this Annual Report, which is also available on the UCS website, www.uticak12.org. Additional information about any part of this report may be obtained by calling the school principal.