



Mission Statement — The Switzer Elementary community is committed to helping all students become responsible, life-long learners by maintaining a safe, positive environment that encourages individuals to reach their fullest potential.

Switzer Elementary

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

53200 Shelby Road • Shelby Township, MI 48316 • 586.797.6400
Principal Carol Ann Pollak, Former Principal Steve Slancik • Average Daily Attendance 95.87%

Our school is state and nationally accredited

Switzer 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.

Switzer Report Card

AYP 2005: Yes
AYP 2006: Yes

Education YES! Grades:
2005 - A
2006 - A

MEAP summary on page 3

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

- School year 2005-2006 saw continued success in all four MEAP subject areas, placing Switzer well above county and state averages.
- The NCA School Improvement Process enables Switzer's professional staff to continue to assess its strengths and weaknesses as we strive for excellence in our curriculum, teaching strategies and student achievement.
- Technology thrives in Switzer's classroom, as students engage in hands-on learning experiences using multimedia equipment such as computers, iBooks, Smart Boards, digital and video cameras, video conferencing and the Internet.
- Switzer soars with Success Skills as teachers weave Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Personal Best and Positive Communication into assemblies, multi-age activities (such as Book Buddies) and general curriculum activities.
- Switzer's Student Council has worked to enhance school spirit, support charities and encourage student usage of the Success Skills use.
- The Switzer staff engages in professional development training that supports our students as they develop technology projects. Our entire school is networked so that students can retrieve their files or access the Internet from any computer in the building.
- Our Safety and Service Squad involves 5th and 6th graders in a variety of duties before, during and after school.
- Switzer continues its successful recycling program.
- Switzer students generously took part in several successful service projects to support families in need, such as Turning Point, A Special Angel's

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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 Switzer 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	89	90	89	93	103	90	104	93
Males	45	87	45	96	50	88	50	92
Females	44	93	44	91	53	92	54	94
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin					<10		<10	
Hispanic	<10		<10		<10		<10	
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	86	91	86	94	92	92	92	93
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	<10		<10		<10		<10	
English Language Learners					<10		<10	
Students with Disabilities	18	83	18	83	12	83	12	83
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	78	95	78	87	95	95	95	84
Males	32	91	32	84	47	94	47	83
Females	46	98	46	89	48	96	48	85
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Hispanic								
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	74	95	74	88	92	95	92	84
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	<10		<10		<10		<10	
English Language Learners								
Students with Disabilities	<10		<10		17	76	17	47
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	92
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.

Parent-teacher conferences

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 Switzer Elementary was 98 percent in 2004 and 97 percent in 2005.

Switzer 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:

- **Goal #1 Reading: All students will improve reading comprehension across the curriculum.**

We will work with our students to improve their reading comprehension by implementing strategies the Switzer staff developed through our North Central Association (NCA) plan. Literacy instructional strategies such as pre-reading activities, using contextual clues, oral and written retelling, story elements and using graphic organizers will assist our students' comprehension. Guided Reading, Soar to Success and Literacy groups will give additional support. Evaluation is ongoing by the classroom teachers, using the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP) and Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).

- **Goal #2 Social Studies: All students will broaden their understanding of social studies across the curriculum.**

Switzer teachers will teach, model and provide opportunities for students to implement Core Democratic Values by experiencing current and real-life events. This will be done in a variety of activities using multimedia projects, writing pieces and/or oral presentations. Vocabulary development, Question and Answer relationships, retelling strategies, use of computer software programs and creating graphs and maps will provide opportunities for students to develop comprehension strategies in order to understand written text. Projects will be measured and monitored through standardized assessments, classroom assessments and rubrics.

- **Goal #3 Writing: All students will develop and improve their writing skills across the curriculum.**

Switzer teachers collaboratively created our school NCA Action Plan outlining strategies and activities that support our writing skills goal. Strategies include activities to help our students improve in the area of conventions, style and voice and experiencing a wide range of writing formats. Activities include using the five step writing process, graphic organizers, comparing and contrasting and C.U.P.S. Evaluation is ongoing by the classroom teacher using MLPP, writing rubrics and MEAP assessments.

Each year, we evaluate our students' progress across the curriculum. We expect each student to improve as we focus on our goals and integrate them throughout our curriculum. The Switzer Staff recognizes that academic success depends on our children being responsible learners and accountable for their behavior. Furthermore, our goal is for Switzer students to use technology to help achieve academic success.

Points of pride *continued...*

Touch, MCREST, Toys for Tots, American Red Cross, a hat/mitten tree, Samaritan House, Forgotten Harvest, and the Clinton River clean-up at River Bends Park.

- Last year, our sixth graders again participated in the Shelby Township Police Department D.A.R.E. program.
- Students in grades 4-6 had the opportunity to participate on Switzer's Science Olympiad team, which finished 5th

of 47 schools in the Macomb County K-6 Division. Grades 4-6 also had the opportunity to take part in the Social Studies Olympiad.

- Parent volunteers actively support school programs. Our PTO enriches the school environment with important activities, such as the school health team, Fun Run, social activities, assemblies, the school store and fund-raising efforts.

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.