



Mission Statement —
Our mission is to challenge all students to reach their maximum potential as responsible learners and citizens.

West Utica Elementary

ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006

5415 West Utica Road • Shelby Township, MI 48317 • 586.797.6600
Principal Karen Zimmerman • Average Daily Attendance 94.49%

Our school is state and nationally accredited

West Utica 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.

West Utica Report Card

AYP 2005: Yes
AYP 2006: Yes

Education YES! Grades:

2005 - A
2006 - B

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

- Our West Utica Community takes great pride in being North Central Accredited. We are engaged in the fourth year of the NCA process, which focuses on the Implementation and Monitoring of our Action Plan for improvement. The staff will move forward with the action plan next year.

- In an effort to reinforce positive choices, the West Utica staff participates in a school-wide student initiative, Positive Behavior Support (PBS). The goal is to create a positive learning environment that fosters academic excellence, respect, responsibility, cooperation and safety.

- More than 700 A.C.E. awards were presented to students who excelled in Academics, Citizenship or Effort. The Honors Day assembly showcased student achievement, positive behavior choices, perfect attendance and enrichment activities for the 2005-2006 school year.

- West Utica's 17th annual Veterans' Day Assembly celebrated and honored local veterans. The event focused on patriotic pride and Core Democratic Values in the school community.

- All students participated in "Passing the Torch of Literacy" March Is Reading Month activities, which included reading books in different genres, listening to quest readers and participating in "Rock and Read." Students also read books to earn an Olympic Medal.

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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 West Utica 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	85	79	87	78	68	66	69	71
Males	38	76	40	80	32	53	31	71
Females	47	81	47	77	36	78	38	71
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	12	58	12	58	<10		<10	
Hispanic	<10		<10		<10		<10	
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	60	83	60	85	52	73	53	77
Multiracial	<10		<10					
Economically Disadvantaged	17	82	17	82	14	64	14	64
English Language Learners	<10		10	60	<10		<10	
Students with Disabilities	15	53	15	67	<10		<10	
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	71	75	71	76	75	87	74	53
Males	22	64	22	77	36	81	36	58
Females	49	80	49	76	39	92	38	47
American Indian/Alaskan Native								
Asian/Pacific Islander	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Black/Not of Hispanic Origin	<10		<10		10	100	10	30
Hispanic	<10		<10		<10		<10	
White, Not of Hispanic Origin	57	79	57	77	54	87	53	55
Multiracial								
Economically Disadvantaged	<10		<10		20	80	20	40
English Language Learners	<10		<10		<10		<10	
Students with Disabilities	<10		<10		10	40	10	0
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	Soc. Studies
	Gr. 5 Percent Proficient	Gr. 6 Percent Proficient
All Students	88	84
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 West Utica Elementary was 97 percent in 2004 and 95 percent in 2005.

West Utica 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:

- **Reading Goal: All students will improve in reading comprehension.**
Implementation: Students will improve their reading comprehension through participation in Guided Reading Groups, increasing their reading fluency, and through the use of retelling strategies.
Validation: Teachers will collaborate twice a year on the effectiveness of the retelling interventions.
- **Science Goal: All students will improve their ability to problem solve using the scientific method.**
Implementation: Students will improve their ability to problem solve through utilizing the scientific method, integrating technology and science, and analyzing data.
Validation: Grade-level teachers will collaborate twice a year to discuss the effectiveness of the intervention.
- **Math Goals: All students will improve in computation and problem solving skills.**
Implementation: Students will improve in computation and problem solving skills by using Everyday Counts calendar math activities, by journaling one to two times per week in a math journal and by using the TIPS (Thought, Information, Plan, Solution) strategy two to three times per week.
Validation: Grade-level teams will collaborate twice a year to discuss the effectiveness of the intervention.

Points of pride *continued...*

- The 7th annual Multicultural Fair provided students and families a special opportunity to participate in activities from different countries, sample ethnic foods and enjoy time together learning about other cultures.
- West Utica's Title I program provides early literacy intervention for students in grades K-2.
- Service Learning: To develop the qualities of responsibility and other Success Skills, West Utica students participated in outreach program that included collecting for UNICEF, providing holiday gifts for children through our Christmas Angels program, donating to the Canned Food Drive and Forgotten Harvest, and raising \$400 for CARE HOUSE and \$1,500 for Katrina families.
- Lights, Camera, Action! The daily announcements are broadcast through the school's television network, with students rotating through all the jobs involved in the production, such as newscaster, camera operator and writer.
- Videoconferencing technology enables West Utica students to "visit" many off-site learning facilities such as the zoo, libraries, museums, science centers, even other schools, without leaving their classrooms.
- To continue our partnership with our families, the Parent Teacher Organization sponsored many events for the West Utica community this year, including a Sock Hop, Hoe Down, Bingo Night, Movie Night and Pastries with Parents.

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.