

Every Child  
Achieves



## BROWNING Elementary School

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Browning Elem. is a  
Michigan Blue Ribbon  
Exemplary School

# Annual Report of School Year 2006-2007

### Seven Indicators of Excellence identified in 2006-07

Utica Community Schools has always operated under district goals adopted by the Board of Education aimed at improving student achievement.

Our current district goal – EVERY CHILD ACHIEVES – is a simple, powerful statement that captures the reason for what we do and why we do it. It is our assurance to you that the work of every UCS employee centers on creating, improving and maintaining a high performing learning culture where every child, regardless of his or her ability, can and will achieve.

At the start of the 2006-2007 school year, the Board of Education adopted the Indicators of Excellence, which are the following seven guideposts for raising the academic bar for our students:

We believe that Every Child Achieves when...

- All children are proficient in English Language Arts, mathematics, science and social studies
- The Class of 2011 meets graduation requirements as defined by the Michigan Merit Curriculum (the state's new graduation requirements)
- Advanced Placement opportunities are expanded for all students
- The number of seventh and eighth graders who take and pass Algebra I increases
- A safe and supportive learning environment is maintained
- Parental involvement is celebrated
- Data is used to guide our decision-making

### Through Vertical Teaming, UCS teachers and administrators are working together to align what is taught from one grade level to the next

To better prepare our students to achieve higher levels of proficiency in challenging course work, Vertical Teaming was implemented districtwide in 2006-2007.

Vertical Teaming brings together Utica Community Schools elementary, junior high and senior high school teachers who teach within a common core curricular area to build upon existing programming and develop effective, research-based instructional strategies that benefit all students.

Vertical Teaming is designed to close any gaps in student learning, eliminate unnecessary re-teaching year-to-year of material already learned and enable teachers and administrators to pinpoint the unique needs of the students in a particular K-12 attendance sequence.

### Michigan Report Card for Browning Elem.

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —**  
2005-06: Yes 2006-07: Yes

**Education YES! Grades —**  
2005-06: A 2006-07: A

**A complete data report of MEAP achievement, AYP, teacher qualifications, attendance or graduation rates, dual enrollment, accreditation, parent-teacher conference attendance and school improvement programs is posted on the district website, [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org).**

During 2007-2008, the Vertical Team in place at Browning Elementary School will meet with Vertical Teams from other schools in our feeder pattern to work together to improve grade-to-grade instruction in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics.

### *Advanced Placement is the goal for all UCS students*

Utica Community Schools has begun its campaign to encourage and expect every student to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses in high school. One of the goals of vertical teaming is to better prepare students in the earlier grades by introducing more of the higher level learning concepts and thinking skills they will need for success in accelerated classes when they reach high school.

### UCS launches “Indicators of Excellence — Reaching Higher,” a data driven plan to improve student achievement

To further advance student achievement toward 100 percent proficiency by 2014, as required by No Child Left Behind, and to continue exceeding state standards established by the MEAP assessments and the state's Education YES! program, the Board of Education approved in August 2007 a series of new Indicators of Excellence that will be implemented in the 2007-2008 school year.

The new Indicators are drawn from a recommendation to the Board of Education by the Accountability Advisory Committee. This was a group of district parents, employees and residents who worked together at the direction of the

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Superintendent of Schools to develop a more structured process for ensuring that UCS students continue to excel.

Progress toward reaching the new Indicators of Excellence will be measured through regular analysis of student performance data specific to each Indicator.

The Indicators of Excellence — Reaching Higher initiative is based on these three districtwide goals that set our course for the future:

- **District Goal 1 —**  
*By 2014 all students in the Utica Community Schools will meet or exceed proficiency standards in English language arts (reading and writing), math, science, social studies, fine arts and career and technical education, as identified by national, state and UCS standards.*
- **District Goal 2 —**  
*The school district will implement a world-class instructional program.*
- **District Goal 3 —**  
*Parent, business and community partnerships will be an integral part of student learning.*

The plan is structured upon three “tiers,” or levels of responsibility:

- **Tier I Indicators** apply district-wide and are designed to assess whether federal, state and district requirements are being met. For example, one Indicator of Excellence stipulates that, beginning with the graduating class of 2011, all students will meet or exceed state standards and qualify for the Michigan Promise Scholarship, based on qualifying scores on the Michigan Merit Exam.
- **Tier II Indicators** will be established by all schools and departments in the 2007-2008 school year. Tier II Indicators will be school or department specific, designed as the basis for targeted improvement in support of the Indicators of Excellence.
- **Tier III Indicators** consist of a written narrative from each school outlining both what has been done to improve student achievement and the plans and challenges specific to that building.

**Browning Elementary School’s Tier III narrative for 2006-2007 is as follows:**

#### ***The Staff at Browning Elementary***

- Browning’s present success at meeting the needs of its students is a result of its excellent teaching staff’s ability to ensure that every child achieves and no child is left behind.

#### ***Instructional School Goals***

- Increase number of students moving to proficient on MEAP test
- Increase number of students in performance level - 1 on MEAP test

#### ***Teacher-Based Instructional Practices Being Implemented***

- Writing - Writers Workshop - being implemented by all grade levels
- Writing - Literacy Stations - being implemented by all grade levels
- Reading - Guided Reading - being implemented by all grade levels

#### ***Curricular Initiatives to Support Student Achievement***

- “Quick Artic” Program - Individualized therapy to meet the needs of students with phonological processing disorders and articulation errors. This therapy model is supported by the Speech Pathologist.
- Early intervention literacy program for at-risk kindergarteners based on weekly progress monitoring of reading ability data. This support program is provided three days a week with direct instruction by our early intervention teaching team.
- Early intervention literacy program for 1st grade students who are not making adequate grade level progress are referred to the Literacy Coaches for direct instruction. They will receive instruction three days a week.

#### ***Behavioral Initiatives to Support Student Emotional Needs***

- Success Skills Program - Each student is provided the opportunity to earn recognition in both academic performance and good behavior. Upon receiving recognition the student receives a parent response form that notifies the parent of excellent behavior or academic performance.

#### **Our School’s Points of Pride**

- The students at W. B. Browning participated in Student Council, Service Squad, Safety Patrol and Media Center Tech Team. Student Aides help in the kindergarten and first grade rooms at lunchtime and after school.
- Students also participated in the Social Studies Olympiad, Science Olympiad, MCTM Math Competitions, DARE, Saturday Scholars, Star of the Month, Sixth Grade Camp Tamarack, Morning Announcement Team, and Accelerated Reader.
- Browning parents continue to support student learning by helping with classroom projects, listening to students read, tutoring students in reading and math, and chaperoning off-site learning experiences.
- Browning families donated food at Christmas to Kiwanis Canned Food Drive and Toys for Tots. Ms. Gibala, Browning’s gym teacher, sponsored a Fun Run for cancer research. The donation totaled \$7,800.
- Three Browning students participated in the UCS Honors Choir while 35 students joined in our instrumental music program.