



MORGAN Elementary School

53800 Mound Road, Shelby Township, MI 48316

586.797.5800

Patrick Zott, Principal

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 Morgan Elementary

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.

During 2007-2008, the Vertical Team in place at Morgan 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 Social Studies.

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.

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

Initiatives implemented this school year were aligned with student achievement and creating a safe learning environment. A *Response to Intervention* program in Kindergarten addressed the literacy needs of eighteen at-risk students. This program will address the same students in the fall and cycle back to Kindergarten’s second semester. In addition, schedules will be aligned to expand the special education co-teach model. The resource, *6+1 Traits of Writing*, provided a foundation for writing strategies to incorporate *Writer’s Workshop* in the classroom. The success of the sixth grade model was shared with our feeder

junior high schools and high school. Our building goal is to incorporate *Writer’s Workshop* at all grade levels.

All students learn differently. One process that proved successful for our staff in addressing student needs is *Meeting Mechanics*. Through this process, classroom teachers, parents and special education specialists discuss individual student’s learning strengths and weaknesses to strategize accommodations or differentiated instructional practices to achieve academic success.

Student success in school is multifaceted. In addition to academics, students develop empathy and social skills. Initiated this year and to continue was *Positive Behavior Support*. We identified through surveys areas of behavioral or safety concerns. Guidelines were developed and a training DVD was produced to assist in the teaching of expected behaviors. Our student focused DVD served as a model for other schools across Macomb County. Our goal is to compliment students more for demonstrating positive behavior. To develop empathy and a sense of community, we began a community service model of older students tutoring younger, at-risk schoolmates. “Peer buddies” and “Friendship Groups” continue to be invaluable in building tolerance and social skills. Parent volunteers not only assist the day-to-day functions of the building, but strengthen the importance of an education. Parental presence and involvement demonstrates to our students education is valued.

Initiatives implemented this school year, the dedication of our talented staff and parents and the positive focus of our students were the key components in the success of Morgan Elementary in acquiring Adequate Yearly Progress and achieving an **A** on the State of Michigan school report card.

Our School’s Points of Pride

- The Morgan staff and students instituted PBS (Positive Behavior Support). Students starred in a behavior-teaching DVD. The DVD was requested by schools across Macomb County.
- Morgan staff focused on writing strategies to improve writing incorporating *Writer’s Workshop*. Sixth grade data demonstrated impressive gains. The writing model was shared vertically with Junior and Senior High teachers.
- We offer an after-school enrichment program for our students. Participation increased this year.
- Video conference opportunities occurred at all grade levels enhancing the curriculum.
- We implemented a community service model during recess where older students tutor younger schoolmates.
- Parents David and Cindy Randolph provided leadership for our Science Olympiad Team. Parent coaches and student competitors placed 3rd in Macomb County.