

Every Child  
Achieves



## STEVENSON High School

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Stevenson HS 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 Stevenson HS

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

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

**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 Stevenson High 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 Science.

### *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.

**Stevenson High School’s Tier III narrative for 2006-2007 is as follows:**

The 2006-07 has proved to be an outstanding year for Stevenson High School (SHS).

Stevenson teachers continue to maintain their professional best both in and outside the classroom. High expectations will remain the norm for staff and student achievement.

Student enrollment continues to be strong and, as a result, several curricular areas have seen continued growth. Medical Health Sciences has grown by almost 100% over two years. Advanced Placement courses have also increased dramatically. In 2006, eight AP courses were offered, with

321 students taking AP classes. For the 2007-08 school year, we will offer 13 AP courses, with 624 students enrolled.

This year, SHS created a Parent Forum. Administration meets monthly with parents to discuss building issues, which has been very informative. This group is expected to grow in the 2007 school year, and all interested SHS parents are invited to join. For dates and times of these meetings, please contact the main office.

The Michigan Merit Exam was given to students at SHS for the first time during the 2006-07 school year. We had 99% participation of our juniors. Participation was 96% for days two and three. However, make-ups brought participation to 99% in all sections of the MME.

Stevenson High School has continued to send teachers to the Reading Apprenticeship program. We trained 42 teachers in 2005-06 and 45 in 2006-07. At this point 90% of staff are trained and, as a result, teachers are expected to utilize research-based teaching strategies in all classes across the curriculum. This continues to be a vital part in preparing students for post-secondary success.

For the second straight year, Parent-Teacher attendees increased. The total number of November participation in 2006-07 was 4,959, up from 4,787 in 2005. March conferences also increased from 1,489 in 2006 to 1,544 in 2007.

**Our School’s Points of Pride**

- Stevenson High School (SHS) is a U.S. Department of Education National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and a State of Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School.
- Stevenson students received numerous awards and scholarships:  
Titan Science Olympiad Team placed 8<sup>th</sup> in the State of Michigan Competition. State Medals were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup> place to Michael Hein and Pallvi Singh for Oceanography, and two 2<sup>nd</sup> place medals were awarded to Manisha Singh, Pallvi Singh and Geoffrey Ng for Experimental Design, and to Eric Wilkins and Sarah Spath for Robot Ramble.
- For 15 years in a row, the Stevenson Titan Marching Band received a 1<sup>st</sup> Division Rating, the most in UCS history, at MSBOA Festival. All 3 Concert Bands received 1<sup>st</sup> Division Ratings, also. And, representing the UCS District 16 Honors Band are Jessica Pearson, Trevor Critchett, Eric Wilkins, Jill Paul, Stefanie Perlaki, Al Paquette, Rachael Hare, Monica Yousif, and Brent Ogden.
- The Ambassador Yearbook was named a Finalist in the National Scholastic Press Association Pacemaker Competition, only 1 in 5 for the State of Michigan, and 56<sup>th</sup> nationally.
- Michelle Berg, our Drama teacher, was named Outstanding Educator of the Year Award from the Michigan Interscholastic Forensic Association for 2006-07.