



SWITZER Elementary School

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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 Switzer 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 Switzer 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.

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

Switzer teachers disaggregated Fall 2006 MEAP data using a color-coded system. Binders, which included item analysis for each subtest, were created for each teacher to assist with curriculum delivery effectiveness.

MEAP data was provided to grade levels to discuss strategies for struggling students. Intervention strategies were shared by grade levels at staff meetings.

Teachers received MEAP reports to support instruction. These included classroom item analysis, grade level item analysis and individual student reports.

Two Switzer staff members attended UCS Data Team Training. The fifth grade team is enthusiastically implementing this concept.

Selected staff members attended Response to Intervention (RtI) training. All kindergarten, first grade, and learning center teachers attended training along with the principal and literacy consultant. This team is currently planning an Early Intervention Program.

Switzer teachers implemented a K-6 school-wide writing plan, which incorporates the Writing Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE’s) at every grade level. Additionally, curricular materials were purchased to support literacy and writing instruction. K-PALS and First Grade PALS materials were purchased for K, 1st and Learning Center classrooms. The Write Steps writing program was purchased for 2nd & 3rd grade classrooms. Scholastic Trait Crates were purchased for 4th & 5th grade classrooms.

Our school writing assessment plan is being revised to include common quarterly assessments to help monitor student progress on a more frequent basis.

Staff meetings and after school book discussion activities focus on professional development topics to improve student learning. Our staff discussed Robert Marzano’s Big Nine and Carol Tomilison’s Differentiated Instruction.

Curriculum revisions and updates are shared with staff at meetings.

Our School’s Points of Pride

- Switzer Elementary received the grade of “A” on the Michigan School Report Card. The Michigan School Report Card measures the areas of student achievement, indicators of school performance and adequate yearly progress.
- We experienced continued success on the MEAP in the areas of Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science. Switzer students performed above county and state averages.
- The Switzer Staff engaged in several professional development opportunities. Teachers participated in the area of Differentiated Instruction, which is essentially adjusting lessons to meet student needs. Teachers also learned about Literacy Work Stations, which are activities designed to engage students in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Additionally, our staff routinely disaggregated MEAP data to identify program strengths and needs.
- Students in grades 4 – 6 had the opportunity to participate on Switzer’s Science Olympiad Team, which finished 6th in the Macomb County Science Olympiad Tournament.
- Switzer students generously participated in several successful service projects to support families in need. Collections were taken to support many charities, such as A Forgotten Harvest, A Special Angel’s Touch, Toys for Tots, Donations for Troops, Kiwanis Food Drive, Hat/Mitten Tree and Cartridges for Kids.