



## 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 Utica HS

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

**Education YES! Grades —  
2005-06: C**

**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 Utica 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.

### *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.

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

The staff and students at Utica High School (UHS) continue to display unique and creative forms of learning. Our students remain consistent in their quest to learn and grow academically. As a result, we have been able to enhance our educational program through various media, new course offerings, professional development, special projects and creating business partnerships to provide a quality education for UHS students.

UHS teachers and administrators participated in many district initiatives to support student achievement —

- Reading Apprenticeship (RA)
- Three Minute Walk Through

- Michigan Merit Exam Project
- ACT Prep Software Project
- AP Vertical Teaming
- Data Teams
- Accountability Action Advisory Teams

There were many teaching/learning initiatives implemented at UHS during the 2006-2007 school year. Initiatives include, after-school tutorial program, teaching for content mastery, analyzing classroom data, applied technology advanced processes (ATAP) – pilot, the Promethean Project, monthly book club meetings and the Sophomore-Senior Mentoring Program (SSP).

Planning for the 2007-2008 school year will involve developing a math intervention program that will consist of regular and special services teachers, team teaching, and working with manipulatives with small groups of students. New advanced placement courses will be offered to UHS students – nine new courses which represents an 82% increase in AP course offerings. Also, instructors have partnered with MCC and Michigan Technology University to offer a new pilot CTE course entitled Engineering and Technology. Students will learn advanced programming in project design, problem-solving, robotics, biotech, auto design and manufacturing and much more. Approximately 25 students have enrolled in the course.

Next year, continued emphasis will be placed on collaboration at the building and district level. As stated by researcher Joan Richardson: “Teachers are like scientists because they continue to learn from the work they do.” The more we collaborate, the more we’ll learn. Our major challenges will evolve around creating time for teachers to collaborate during the school day. Teacher dialogue will include discussions regarding best practice strategies, reviewing student work, creating frequent assessments and documenting their findings. Data will be reviewed to assess student performance.

### Our School’s Points of Pride

- The Utica High Skills USA Club (formerly the Vocational Industrial Club of America) once again led our Toys For Tots drive, raising over \$5,000.
- The Utica High Marching, Varsity and Symphonic Bands all earned 1st Division ratings at the MSBOA District Festival.
- The Utica High School Forensics team included two state finalists this past season.
- Utica High Varsity Golfer Nick Mihaiu competed in the State Golf Finals, finishing 8th place in Class A.
- Four members of the Utica High DECA Club qualified for the national competition in Orlando, Florida.
- The Utica Girls’ Cross Country team finished as Macomb County champions and qualified for the state meet, finishing 19<sup>th</sup> overall.
- Utica High’s Quiz bowl team finished 2nd in the MAC, and made it to the state competition.
- The Utica High varsity Volleyball team finished the year as District Champions.