



## Annual Report of School Year 2007-2008

### *Reaching Higher — Indicators of Excellence* successfully launched in 2007-2008 to increase student achievement

It is our expectation in Utica Community Schools that every student will achieve academically to his/her potential and prepare for and pursue some level of higher education or career training following high school graduation.

Utica Community Schools is also required to meet by 2014 the federal No Child Left Behind requirement that 100 percent of our students and student subgroups achieve proficiency on the state MEAP assessments in grades 3 - 9 and the Michigan Merit Exam in high school. In addition, each of our 40 schools is required to annually achieve Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) based on the state standards.

To meet these expectations, *Reaching Higher — Indicators of Excellence*, a data-driven school improvement initiative, was launched in 2007-2008 in Utica Community Schools. It is our guide for increasing student achievement in all academic areas by means of a series of clear, measurable Indicators that are to be met within a specified time.

*Reaching Higher* is based on three district-wide goals:

- **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.*

Stemming from the district goals are three tiers of Indicators — I, II and III — that define how and when the established student achievement targets will be met:

- **Tier I Indicators** — These are the district-wide *Indicators of Excellence* (seven at the elementary level and eight each at the junior and senior high levels - 30 total) designed to assess whether federal, state and district academic requirements are being met within a given time frame.

### Michigan Report Card for Beck Elementary

#### Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —

2006-07: Yes    2007-2008: Yes

#### Education YES! Grade —

2006-07: A    2007-2008: A

All UCS schools are accredited by the Michigan Department of Education. In addition, the four UCS high schools are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

A building report of student achievement on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) is available on-line at [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org). Under the Information heading, click on MEAP/MME scores to find our school. The on-line report also includes information on teacher qualifications, parent-teacher conference attendance and the district retention rate.

- **Tier II Indicators** — These are school-based indicators established during the 2007-2008 school year by each UCS school. Tier II Indicators are specific to the student needs in that building and designed as the basis for targeted improvement in support of the *Indicators of Excellence*. The Tier II Indicators are supported by SMART goals (specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely) for each grade level established by the building staff.
- **Tier III Indicators** — These are the schools' narrative reports on their progress in 2007-2008 toward meeting their Tier II Indicator(s). Our school's Tier II and Tier III Indicators are printed on the back of this page.

The district's Tier I Indicators for its 29 elementary schools are as follows:

**Indicator 1.1:** All students in kindergarten through second grade will meet or exceed district benchmarks.

**Indicator 1.2:** All students in third through sixth grades will meet or exceed standards and be identified as proficient on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests in reading, writing, math, science and social studies.

**Indicator 1.3:** Third through sixth graders who receive special education services will show specified growth on the MI-Access test in reading, writing and mathematics.

**Indicator 1.4:** Third through sixth graders who are part of the district's English Language Learners (ELL) program will show specified growth on the English Language Proficiency Assessment in reading, writing, speaking and listening.

**Indicator 1.5:** All students in second through sixth grade will demonstrate proficiency on the district writing test in the areas of persuasive, informative and cause/effect writing.

**Indicator 1.6:** All students in kindergarten through sixth grade will demonstrate proficiency on the district math test.

**Indicator 1.7:** All students in third through sixth grade will demonstrate proficiency on the district science and social studies tests.

**Beck Centennial Elementary School's Tier II Indicator:**

Increase the number of students who score at Level 4, 5 or 6 on the district-wide 4 point or 6 point rubric in Writing.

**Beck Centennial Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:**

The Instructional Team at Beck Centennial Elementary meets often to assure student success. We have a Building Level Data Team that developed a collaborative style for identifying at-risk students and targeting instruction that assures student success.

This year, our school has selected to improve writing scores. To do this, we have identified the following Tier II Indicator – to Increase the number of students (K-6) who score at Level 4, 5 or 6 on the district-wide four-point or six-point rubrics (scoring guidelines) in writing.

Grade Level Data Teams meet with the principal twice monthly using results of assessments to drive curriculum and individualize instruction.

Each grade level has developed strategies and “SMART” Goals (Goals that are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely) so that we can monitor student success and adjust instruction as needed.

Beck teachers continue to use the best teaching practices available to assure student success, including Writer's Workshop, 6 + 1 Writing Traits, Grade Level Writing Prompts, Response to Intervention Strategies (RtI) focused in 1st grade and kindergarten and Literacy Work Stations.

All SMART goals were met or exceeded. Here are our MEAP writing results for tests taken in October 2007:  
58 % of all Beck 3<sup>rd</sup> graders scored proficient in writing.  
67 % of all Beck 4<sup>th</sup> graders scored proficient in writing.  
69 % of all Beck 5<sup>th</sup> graders scored proficient in writing.  
87 % of all Beck 6<sup>th</sup> graders scored proficient in writing.  
86 % of all Beck 7<sup>th</sup> graders (at Shelby) scored proficient in writing.

**Our School's Points of Pride**

- We are proud of the “Heart of Beck” Jump Team, recognized by the American Heart Association for helping kick off fund-raisers at ten elementary schools where they performed and substantially increased donations.
- Through shows and demonstrations at elementary and junior high schools, the Heart of Beck energized thousands of students to jump rope and even try some fun tricks. They also performed at an Oakland University basketball half-time show and a Detroit Pistons game at The Palace of Auburn Hills and were showcased at the Michigan Physical Education Teacher Training Program.
- Thirty-nine fifth grade student poems were submitted and accepted for publication in “*A Celebration of Young Poets.*”
- Beck fifth graders collected more than 200 toys for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.
- Nancy Domke, Social Studies Olympiad coordinator, inspired many Beck students to perform well in the Michigan Social Studies Olympiad. Medal winners were: Brittany Gietzen, Gold Medal in Quiltathon; Johanna Shiveley, Gold Medal for Puppetry; Ally Yorke, Silver Medal for Poetry; and Matthew Jozefczyk, Bronze Medal for his “Take a Stand” essay. Rachel Solomon had Honorable Mention in Quiltathon.
- Student Melissa Jakupovic was our *Kaleidoscope* winner.
- Works of art by students Sydney Rasche and Skylar Larry were chosen for the Utica Community Schools Art Show. Student Suzanne Degroot's artwork was displayed at the Instructional Resource Center and earned a Superintendent's Choice ribbon from Dr. Christine M. Johns.
- Beck students Blake Theisen, Nicholas Jozefczyk, Rachel Solomon and Miranda Kosciolek shared their Veterans Day poems with local veterans at the fifth grade concert.
- Students in room 18 participated in the six-week “A World in Motion” partnership program with engineers and designers from General Motors Corp.
- Last fall, our sixth graders attended Camp Tamarack and worked together in team-building activities.
- Sixth graders also participate in the National Geography Bee.
- Science Olympiad Coordinator David Ledbetter helped Beck Centennial finish eleventh among more than 65 teams at the Macomb County Science Olympiad. In the “Starry, Starry Night” event, the Beck team, coached by staff members Christina Polson and Sharon Major, took fourth place; students Kayla Major and Brittany Ladson also finished in fourth place. Students Calvin Patel and Victor Mondine finished eighth in “Charged Up.”
- Beck students in the Academically Talented and Gifted program and sixth graders from Melissa Rimas and Carolyn Mulka's classes made fleece blankets for children in Macomb County Foster Care.
- In 2007-2008, our Beck Family Volunteers provided 10 assemblies, purchased instructional equipment for our students and continued to provide opportunities for Beck families to meet, socialize, grow and learn together.
- Beck school social worker Steve Whitmore has been elected the Michigan Association for School Social Workers Region M Delegate for the 2008-09 school year.