



DeKeyser is a  
Michigan Blue Ribbon  
Exemplary School

## 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 DeKeyser Elem.

**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.

**DeKeyser Elementary School's Tier II Indicator:**

Increase the number of students who score at Level 4, 5 or 6 on the state six-point writing rubric in Writing from Knowledge and Experience.

**DeKeyser Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:**

At the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year, DeKeyser participated in the district Data Team Training. After reviewing data from the Golden Package and MI Tracker, the staff identified our Tier II Goal: Increase the number of students who score at Level 4, 5 or 6 on the state six-point writing rubric in Writing from Knowledge and Experience.

The DeKeyser Writing Plan focused on all areas of writing and emphasized different types of writing each quarter. In the first quarter and fourth quarter, Writing From Knowledge and Experience was highlighted and assessed. In the second quarter, response to paired reading was emphasized and in the third quarter, peer response to student writing sample was the focus.

Professional Development during the year centered on improving writing instruction at all grades. Each grade level identified SMART Goals and worked in teams to identify researched based strategies and interventions that would improve student writing skills. Staff participated in a session led by our school literacy consultant that focused on reviewing and scoring papers from the MEAP scores from grades 3-6 using the state writing rubric. Staff also shared Writer's Workshop lessons and resources in lower elementary and upper elementary clusters.

The 6 + 1 Writing Plan, developed by 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers at Morgan Elementary, was shared with the entire staff as part of our professional development. Resources, rubrics and lesson plans were also reviewed.

Teachers made students copies of MEAP Writing From Knowledge and Experience samples. The principal reviewed 5<sup>th</sup> grade MEAP writing with students. As part of

writing instruction, students rewrote their MEAP writing piece using the state writing rubric as a guideline for improving skills.

All students participated in a 6 + 1 Writing Assembly that identified and explained each of the writing traits.

Using MEAP and assessment data, each teacher identified students at-risk in the area of writing. Writing plans were developed for these students that provided additional interventions by the classroom teacher and literacy consultant, including small group writing instruction and mini-lessons. Second grade teachers developed an at home writing program for these students.

An 'Author's Chair' was introduced so that students can share good writing at weekly assemblies.

The staff has made a decision to revise our school-wide plan for the 2008-2009 school year and follow the 6 + 1 Writing model identified by Morgan teachers. We are currently in the process of developing scoring rubrics at each grade level.

**Our School's Points of Pride**

- DeKeyser Elementary is a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School
- DeKeyser's standardized test scores are above county and state level
- School-wide science experience off-site at Camp Echo Grove
- First grade teacher Russell Moore was named both the Utica Community Schools and the Macomb County Elementary Teacher of the Year
- The K-Nex program was implemented this school year; peer interaction was promoted to improve student social skills
- Our Response to Intervention Program provided additional reading instruction to 55 students in grades K, 1, 2, 4 and 6
- DeKeyser has a high level of student involvement including student-led assemblies, student-run school store and student-led field day
- School-wide Positive Behavior Support Program