



Flickinger 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 Flickinger Elem.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —
2006-07: Yes 2007-2008: Yes

Education YES! Grade —
2006-07: B 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. 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.

Flickinger Elementary School's Tier II Indicator:

Increase the number of students in grades third through sixth who score a proficiency level of 1 or 2 on the total English Language Arts portion of the Michigan Educational Assessment Program.

Flickinger Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:

The 2007-08 school year is another example of the successful partnership between all members of the Flickinger Community. Students, parents and staff are proud of the continued academic and behavioral growth.

We are pleased that Flickinger received an 'A' on Michigan's Education YES! School Report Card and we continue to make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by No Child Left Behind.

We are working to increase the number of students who score proficient or higher on the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the MEAP assessment. Our results prove that our improvement strategies are working. Total ELA scores increased 7% in 3rd grade and 13% in 6th grade.

While ELA scores remained constant in 4th grade, writing improved 19%. (K-2 students do not take the MEAP). District benchmark assessments are utilized to show proficiency at each grade level.

We have redesigned our school's writing plan and organized it around the 6 + 1 Writing Traits. This plan is being implemented through Writer's Workshop and student progress is continually evaluated by our grade level data teams.

Teachers are using student generated data to develop interventions that meet all students' needs. We have implemented Response-to-Intervention in grades K-2 and grade 5.

Our 'at-risk' students have benefited from this additional reading intervention, where they receive intense, direct support from trained staff members on a daily basis.

The Flickinger staff implemented a Positive Behavior Support (PBS) Program in the fall of 2007. PBS is a research-based school-wide behavior plan that teaches students expected behaviors, emphasizes the positive and rewards appropriate behavior.

Our staff is a dedicated group of professionals who strive to improve student achievement. We are enjoying great success, but also have areas of need to address. We have seen significant gains in our ELA scores and are working toward the goal of 100% proficiency in all areas.

We will continue to refine our Writing Plan, while moving forward on new mathematics and science goals. We are focused on raising scores for students receiving special education services. We continue to adopt and implement the most effective strategies to ensure that *All Students Achieve*.

Our School's Points of Pride

- Flickinger's LEGO Robotics team, the Power Pods, received a second place trophy in Robotic Design.
- The Michigan Reading Association selected a Flickinger sixth grade student to be included in the Kaleidoscope 2008 publication, which is designed to celebrate the talents of Michigan's young authors.
- Flickinger Read-a-Thon donated enough money to the Wheel Chair Foundation to supply 17 children around the world with wheelchairs.
- Our outstanding staff successfully launched a Positive Behavior Support Program, designed to teach students expected behaviors, emphasizes the positive, and reward appropriate behavior.
- The Flickinger Science Olympiad team received medals in Grasp-A-Graph, Mystery Architectures and Zowie Estimation.
- Our sixth graders participated in Share Our Strength's Great American Bake Sale to raise funds for hungry children in America.
- Staff members at Flickinger received Mini-Grants from DTE and the UCS Foundation for Excellence.
- Flickinger students and staff participated in several philanthropic activities including adopting three local families for the winter holidays, trimming a Mitten Tree, Kiwanis Food Drive, care packages for U.S. soldiers and a book drive for needy children.