



## 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 Plumbrook Elementary

**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.cticak12.org](http://www.cticak12.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.

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### **Plumbrook Elementary School's Tier II Indicator:**

All students will demonstrate how to improve their content/ideas, organization, style/voice, and conventions when writing from knowledge and experience using the district-wide 4- and 6-point writing rubrics (scoring tools).  
Strategies:

- Implementation of the 6 + 1 Writing Traits
- Daily Writers' Workshop
- Literacy Workstations
- Grade level writing prompts
- Development of school-wide writing plan
- Implementation of common writing language
- Use of common assessments and rubrics

### **Plumbrook Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:**

The students and staff of Plumbrook Elementary concentrated on improving their writing skills in the 2007-2008 school year. More specifically, we wanted to improve student skills in the areas of content and ideas, organization, style and voice and conventions when writing from knowledge and experience using the district-wide 4-and 6-point writing rubrics.

Plumbrook staff uses the 6 + 1 Writing Traits model and Writer's Workshop as their main source of writing instruction. They are also incorporating Literacy Workstations and graphic organizers to help further student understanding of the writing process. We have developed a school-wide writing plan that assesses student's writing quarterly, and have also implemented a common writing language in all grades.

Our teachers meet weekly in data teams to analyze the progress of our students' writing. Each grade level team decides which strategies and assessments they will use to meet the goals they have set for their students.

Those students who are identified as "at risk" (In need of more support) are provided with additional help by the classroom teacher, literacy consultant and Response to

Intervention Program (RtI) program. We have implemented RtI in grades K-5 to further assist our students in the area of Language Arts and plan to expand RtI to include sixth grade.

Our literacy coach and learning center teacher are very involved in helping students improve their writing through the RTI program and other support programs for teachers and students.

The literacy coach provides writing skills instruction for each class based on the MEAP results. The learning center teacher has worked with the fifth and fourth grade students on *Begin With Me* and *Rode to the Code*. The students enjoy working with these two teachers and have shown more interest in their writing.

Our efforts have demonstrated student growth. Students in grades 4, 5 and 6 have shown double digit growth in their MEAP writing scores, while the remainder of our students has achieved more modest growth. Reading scores are up significantly in all grade levels.

Plumbrook is positioned to continue growth toward proficiency for all students next year because of the dedicated work of our teachers and students.

### **Our School's Points of Pride**

- Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative Grant (MiBLSi) implemented at Plumbrook
- Response to Intervention Program in grades K-6
- Early Literacy Intervention Program
- After School Enrichment Program
- POHI Program
- Teacher book study club
- Grades K-2 after-school book club
- Grades 3-6 after-school book club
- Oakland University student teachers for science
- Home of the Stevenson Teacher Cadets
- WEB Reading program
- Professional Learning Communities
- After-school homework program
- Lower elementary and upper elementary classroom buddies working and learning together