



Schuchard 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 Schuchard 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. 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.

Schuchard Elementary School's Tier II Indicators:

Increase the number of students in grades K-1 who score at Level 3 or 4 in the district-wide 4 point rubric in Writing from Knowledge and Experience.

Increase the number of students in grades 2-6 who score at Level 4, 5 or 6 in the district-wide Writing from Knowledge and Experience.

Schuchard Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:

The 2007-2008 school year was a success in many respects for Schuchard Elementary. The school was also presented with some challenges. Grade-level and special education data teams began in November, 2007, after in-service training by our data team trainer. Teachers revised and implemented a building writing plan.

Teachers are implementing Writers Workshop, 6 + 1 Writing Traits and Marzano's research-based instructional strategies. Student academic success between pre- and post-grade-level SMART goals since November have shown writing scores increasing.

Data Walls (for keeping track of assessment data, learning strategies and progress) by each grade level reflect the SMART goal, Grade Level Content Expectations and pre- and post-test scores.

Writing:

Grade-level pre- and post-tests, along with targeted writing skill strategies, were implemented in specific areas of need based on the fall 2007 MEAP data.

Bi-monthly grade-level data team meetings provided collaboration and analysis of student writing performance, sharing of successful strategies and development of pre- and post-assessments of specific writing skills.

Teachers scored student writing as a team to develop consistency in scoring based on the district's 4-point and 6-point scoring rubrics.

MEAP Writing Assessment scores for cohort students in grades 5 and 6 increased in 2007-2008 over the previous year. Fifth graders increased from 61% to 62% and sixth graders increased from 66% to 89%.

Fourteen students who took the MI-Access ELA (English Language Arts) assessment in the fall of 2006 received an attained or surpassed performance level score.

Our School's Points of Pride

- Schuchard continues to be recognized as a Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School.
- Schuchard continues to implement an Early Intervention Literacy Program for kindergarten and first grade students. Students work on phonemic awareness, letter-sound identification, concepts of print, fluency and writing skills.
- Schuchard has an intensive English Language Learner (ELL) program for students who speak little or no English.
- Our school-wide Positive Behavior Support program for students continues to focus on being respectful, responsible and ready in school, on the playground and on the bus.
- Schuchard Elementary students participated in last summer's Principal's Reading Challenge, reading more than 1,000 minutes each for a grand total of 288,932 minutes!
- Students participating in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Kindness and Justice Challenge performed 4,708 random acts of kindness and justice.
- The Student Council collected canned goods for the Kiwanis Club's Annual Food Drive. Members also volunteered at the Gleaner's Food Bank in Pontiac and raised \$1,582.25 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.
- Schuchard is extremely proud of our supportive parents and their participation during conferences and school activities – 97% of our parents attended parent-teacher conferences last year. Parental support and involvement is an essential component of the education of our students.
- Schuchard's Lego Robotics team won honors in their competitions.
- The Schuchard Volunteer Organization sponsors many programs and activities for the children at Schuchard Elementary.