



## 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.
  - **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

### Michigan Report Card for Stevenson High School

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —**

2006-07: Y      2007-2008: No

**Education YES! Grade —**

2006-07: C      2007-2008: B

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 Merit Exam (MME) is available on-line. Go to [www.uticak12.org](http://www.uticak12.org) and, under the Information heading, click on MEAP/MME scores to find our school. The report also includes information on teacher qualifications, parent-teacher conference attendance and the district retention rate.

(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 four senior high schools are as follows:

**Indicator 1.16:** Beginning with the graduating class of 2011, all students will meet or exceed state standards and qualify for the Michigan Promise Scholarship, based upon qualifying scores on the Michigan Merit Exam.

**Indicator 1.17:** By 2014, the number of students earning college credit or transferable certificates of completion will increase to 100 percent in all Career and Technical Education classes.

**Indicator 1.18:** Eleventh graders who receive special education services will show specified growth on the MI-Access test in reading, writing and mathematics.

**Indicator 1.19:** Tenth through twelfth graders receiving English Language Learners (ELL) services will show growth in reading, writing, speaking and listening as measured by the English Language Proficiency Assessment.

**Indicator 1.20:** The number of eleventh graders selected to take the PSAT/NMSQT tests will increase, resulting in more students qualifying for National Merit recognition.

**Indicator 1.21:** Beginning in the fall of 2007, the number of students enrolled in Advanced Placement and/or International Baccalaureate courses who take AP or IB exams and achieve a score of three or better will increase annually.

**Indicator 1.22:** All tenth and eleventh graders will be proficient and on track to meet state graduation requirements as measured by the district reading, writing, math, science and social studies tests.

**Indicator 1.23:** Every twelfth grader will submit an application for post-secondary education through a monitored acceptance process.

#### **Stevenson High School's Tier II Indicator:**

Increase the number of students who score at the proficient or higher level on Michigan Merit Exam (MME/ACT) writing component.

#### **Tier II SMART Goals —**

In core academic classes, increase the frequency of common writing prompts from 3 to 4 by June 2009.

In non-core classes, increase the frequency of common writing prompts from 1 to 2 by June 2009.

The percentage of Stevenson High School eleventh graders who achieve a score of 4, 5 or 6 on the MME/ACT writing portion will increase from 49% to 52% by March 2009.

#### **Stevenson High School's Tier III Indicator:**

After reviewing the data from the 2006-2007 Michigan Merit Exam (MME) testing, it was the unanimous decision of the Stevenson School Improvement Team to make writing our Tier II goal for the 2007-2008 school year. The team felt that by requiring students to complete more writing and by grading that writing on a common rubric (standard scoring tool), student writing scores on the MME would improve. The team set the goal of improving writing scores by 3%.

The first part of our plan was to give students exposure to the type of content on the MME test. In December, every junior was given an opportunity to take a practice ACT exam. During our January in-service, every teacher was trained in how to score a student essay using the six-point ACT writing rubric. Teachers were shown the criteria used to determine a score on the rubric and given actual student sample essays and practiced scoring them. They gained a much clearer concept of the ACT writing requirements.

Teachers in the four core academic areas: mathematics, science, English language arts and social studies, were asked to incorporate three persuasive essays into their classroom lessons for second semester and grade these essays on the six-point rubric. Teachers were asked to assign those essays in place of another teaching activity. Teachers in Career and Technical Education and elective subject areas were asked to incorporate at least two persuasive writing activities. The goal was to have students complete 14 writing experiences on a variety of topics, in a variety of context areas and then scored on the common rubric by the end of the second semester.

We identified 31 students who were putting forth effort, yet still struggling with writing a persuasive essay. We placed these students in the Literacy for the Real World class for the 2008-09 school year with the goal of providing them with extra writing, reading and grammar experiences to improve their skills prior to taking the MME in March 2009.

The results of Stevenson's Tier II writing goal efforts have been outstanding. Upon review of our 2007-08 MME writing

scores, students who scored proficient (4, 5, 6) increased from 47% to 49%. With the addition of the district-wide focus on professional development in writing. We will be able to build on these scores for the 2008-09 school year.

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

#### **Fine Arts:**

- Student Shaina Kasztelan received a \$24,000 scholarship to the College of Creative Studies.

#### **Drama:**

- State of Michigan Theatre \$500 Scholarship winners: Brad Frenette, Melissa Tarter and Chelsea Wolocko. Brad was chosen as one of 40 students in the country for the National Thespian Society performance of "Hairspray."

- Thespian Troupe won First Place at MIFA District and Regional Competitions; drama teacher Michelle Berg was named MIFA 2008 Theatre Teacher of the Year and National Thespian School Educator of the Year.

#### **Instrumental Music:**

- Marching Band received its 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive First Division Rating by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA); Jazz, Symphonic and Concert Bands all received First Division Ratings; Jazz Band was invited to the Detroit International Jazz Festival Labor Day Weekend 2007; Symphonic, Wind, Orchestra, Jazz and Symphonic Bands were invited to play at Carnegie Hall in New York City; New York Heritage International Music Festival Winners; SHS band members selected annually for the U of M Honors Band, MSBOA District 16 Honors Band, Michigan State Honors Band and Michigan Youth Arts Festival at Western Michigan University; Outstanding Soloist Award to the Jazz Band at Central Michigan's Jazz Weekend.

#### **Foreign Language:**

- Sara Powrozek will be working in a camp for Spanish-speaking children the summer of 2008.

#### **Science:**

- Stevenson High School's Science Olympia Team won First Place in the county and state competitions.

#### **Sports:**

- Boys Track, Soccer and Football teams won MAC Sportsmanship Awards; Girls Cross Country and Bowling and Boys' Baseball and Track teams won MAC Division Championships; Boys Baseball and Track coaches each named MAC Coach of the Year; Boys Baseball, Girls Softball and Girls Soccer won Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) District Championships; Boys and Girls Bowling and Girls Competitive Cheer won MHSAA Regional Championships.

#### **Newspaper:**

- *The Vanguard* student newspaper received a First Place Gold Award from the National Scholastic Press Association and a Mark of Distinction Award.

#### **Yearbook:**

- *The Ambassador* won a First Place Gold Award in Yearbook Critique at the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association State Competition.

#### **Auto Shop:**

- Titan Auto Club students raised more than \$1,500 during their second annual car show in May. Seven students will attend vocational automotive colleges this fall, the most ever. Jake Kotwica won a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Northwestern Ohio. Four students received college credit for courses completed in the Stevenson auto shop classes.