



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 Switzer 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.

Switzer Elementary School's Tier II Indicator:

The number of Switzer students scoring at proficiency or higher will increase in the area of *Writing from Knowledge and Experience*.

Switzer Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:

Enrollment:

Total	540	Grade 3	71
K	55	Grade 4	70
Grade 1	84	Grade 5	88
Grade 2	66	Grade 6	106

SMART Goals Summary

Results are for school years indicated. Quarterly writing benchmarks and the grade level data teams are showing improved student scores. Fall 2007 MEAP writing proficiency increased in grades 3-6 as follows:

Writing	Fall '05	Fall '06	Fall '07
Grade 3	73%	62%	74%
Grade 4	70	63	65
Grade 5	83	71	77
Grade 6	95	93	94

In addition to implementing Writer's Workshop for 30 – 40 minutes each day, Switzer teachers administered quarterly benchmark assessments. Grade level data teams scored the writing prompts and planned instruction based on student strengths and needs.

Fall 2007 MEAP data was reviewed using school developed graphs, Golden Package and MI Tracker data reports to assist with curriculum delivery effectiveness. Golden Package and MI Tracker website information was provided to all teachers along with report binders for data team discussion.

MEAP *Close to Proficient* and *Barely Passing* writing lists were utilized by grade level teams to assist in planning intervention strategies.

Teachers received MEAP reports (classroom item analysis, grade level item analysis and individual student reports) to support instruction.

Kindergarten and first grade Response to Intervention (RtI) groups were formed. Small group instruction is provided three times each week by the special education teaching team, literacy consultant and principal.

The team uses quarterly Dynamic Indicators of Basic Elementary Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessments to determine student eligibility and to plan instruction.

Grade level data teams (K-6) worked throughout the year

on planning for writing instruction. Specifically, teachers focused instruction on adding details and examples to writing. Students were given writing prompts as pre-assessments. Teachers scored each others' student work and sharing the data prompted discussions and led to more cohesive scores. Grade levels planned writing instruction, varying levels of support and intervention based on student needs. Post writing assessments in all grade levels showed marked improvement in student scores.

Our School's Points of Pride

- Switzer Elementary earned an "A" on the Michigan School Report Card, which measures the areas of student achievement, indicators of school performance and adequate yearly progress.
- Quarterly writing benchmarks and the grade-level data teams showed improved student scores. Fall 2007 MEAP writing increased in grades 3 – 6.
- Switzer students demonstrated continued MEAP success in Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science and performed above county and state averages.
- Kindergarten and 1st grade Response to Intervention (RtI) groups were formed. Small group instruction was provided three times each week by the special education teaching team, literacy consultant and principal. The team uses quarterly DIBELS assessments to determine eligibility and plan instruction.
- Switzer "Core Data Team" formed and trained. All teachers participated in Data Teaming during 2007-2008.
- In addition to implementing Writer's Workshop for 30 – 40 minutes each day, Switzer teachers administered quarterly benchmark assessments. Grade level data teams scored the writing prompts and planned instruction based on student strengths and needs.
- Students in grades 4-6 had the opportunity to participate on Switzer's Science Olympiad Team, which finished fifth at the Macomb County K-6 Science Olympiad.
- A new Switzer Lego Robotics team participated in local competition and qualified for the state competition.
- Switzer students took part in several successful service projects to support families in need: Forgotten Harvest, A Special Angel's Touch, Toys for Tots, Donations for Troops, Kiwanis Food Drive, Hat/Mitten Tree, *Free Press* Summer Dreams Program and Cartridges for Kids.
- Our PTO actively supports school programs and enriches the school environment with important activities such as the Accelerated Reader Incentive Program, School Health Team, Fun Run, Family Reading Night, assemblies, school store and fund-raising efforts.