



WEST UTICA Elementary

5415 West Utica Road, Utica, MI 48317
586.797.6600

Karen Zimmerman, Principal



West Utica 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 West Utica Elementary

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) —

2006-07: Yes 2007-2008: Yes

Education YES! Grade —

2006-07: B 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 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.

West Utica Elementary School's Tier II Indicator:

Increase the number of students who score proficient or higher on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Writing Assessment.

West Utica Elementary School's Tier III Indicator:

West Utica Elementary is proud of the academic performance of our students for the 2007-2008 school year. Data from formal and informal sources indicates that students are improving in their writing skills.

Strategies for improvement included collaboration, professional development and monitoring assessments.

Collaboration: Structures were created to promote a collaborative culture among teams of teachers and instilled a capacity for self-direction and problem solving. Teachers monitored student achievement and worked together to analyze and improve their classroom practice through reflective practice. They also focused on multiple measures of disaggregated data to drive writing improvement efforts.

Professional Development: A Language Arts consultant from the Macomb Intermediate School District provided three evenings of professional development in Writer's Workshop for teachers.

All K-5 general education teachers participated in the "Junior Class Learning - New Zealand" student writing workshop. Teachers were instructed in the processes of writing in different genre and how to use the students' own experiences to stimulate writing.

The third grade teachers attended a Writer's Workshop professional development entitled *Enriching Student Writing Through the Writing Process*.

Monitoring Assessment: The teachers administered writing accessments in all curricular areas, as well as a school-wide monthly writing prompt.

The data provided teachers continuous and constructive feedback about student performance; information that specified how well students were doing relative to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) and assisted teachers in tailoring an instructional program to each student's learning needs.

Our School's Points of Pride

- **Blue Ribbon Exemplary School —**
West Utica continues to be recognized as a Blue Ribbon Exemplary School by the Michigan Department of Education. The Blue Ribbon identifies outstanding public schools, based on documented effectiveness in meeting rigorous state and national educational goals.

We are very proud of the award because it is a testament to the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the students, staff and families of the West Utica community!

- **Service Learning —**
In an effort to develop citizenship, responsibility and other Success Skills, West Utica students participate in service learning activities tailored to their age and abilities — such as cleaning up local parks, making holiday gifts and volunteering at charitable agencies. Our students learn the value and rewards of service work at every level.

This past year, the West Utica Student Government group organized a walkathon and collected pledges from friends and family members for the distance they walked. The total amount raised — \$4,500 — was donated to Children's Hospital of Michigan to purchase games, toys and books for the young patients and their siblings.

- **Veterans Day Assembly —**
West Utica Elementary's 19th annual Veterans' Day Assembly celebrated and honored local military veterans. The assembly focused on patriotic pride and core democratic values in the school community.

The event instills a sense of patriotism in our students and allows them the opportunity to honor our nation's 20 million veterans.

- **Positive Choices —**
To reinforce students making positive choices, the West Utica staff participates in a school-wide student initiative known as Positive Behavior Support (PBS). The goal is to create a positive learning environment that fosters students' academic success, respect, responsibility, cooperation and safety.

Last year, more than 700 ACE (Academics, Citizenship and Effort) awards were presented to West Utica students who excelled in these areas.

- **March is Reading Month —**
All students participated in "Reading is an Adventure" during reading month. Activities included Twin Day, Poetry Day, Pajama Day and more. Each week in March, a Mystery Reader read to the students during the morning announcements.