



## 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 Wiley 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.uticak12.org](http://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.

#### **Wiley Elementary School's Tier II Indicator(s):**

Increase the percentage of students who score proficient or higher on writing assessments.

#### **Tier II SMART Goals**

- The percentage of Wiley kindergartners writing at proficient level or higher will increase from their fall 2007 benchmark of 38% to 46% on the spring 2008 benchmark.
- The percentage of Wiley first graders writing at proficient level or higher will increase from their fall 2007 benchmark of 44% to 55% on the spring 2008 benchmark.
- The percentage of Wiley second graders writing at proficient level or higher will increase from their fall 2007 benchmark of 61% to 70% on the spring 2008 benchmark.
- The percentage of Wiley third graders writing at proficient level or higher will increase from 59% (fall 2007 Michigan Educational Assessment Program -MEAP) to 67% on the fall 2008 MEAP.
- The percentage of Wiley fourth graders writing at proficient level or higher will increase from 52% (fall 2007 MEAP) to 60% on the fall 2008 MEAP.
- The percentage of Wiley fifth graders writing at proficient level or higher will increase from 64% (fall 2007 MEAP) to 73% on the fall 2008 MEAP.
- The percentage of Wiley sixth graders writing at proficient level or higher will increase from 81% (fall 2007 MEAP) to 87% on the fall 2008 MEAP.

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

Wiley staff, students and parents should be very proud of the academic successes we achieved during the 2007-2008 school year. For the past year and a half we have worked very hard to increase the percentage of students who score proficient or higher on writing assessments. Our MEAP results indicate that what we are doing is working!

Fourth grade writing scores are up 15%, fifth grade scores are up 21% and seventh grade scores (Wiley students now at Eppler) are up 22% from the previous year. Our third graders scored the same as the third graders last year, while this year's sixth graders posted a 2% increase.

Although our kindergarten through second grade students do not take the MEAP, the data boards for their classrooms clearly showed they reached similar degrees of success.

To help us achieve our goal, we designed a new writing plan which is organized around the six writing traits. This plan is being implemented through Writer's Workshop and is continually evaluated by our grade-level data teams. This process enabled Wiley teachers to closely monitor our students' writing and quickly identify areas of concern. Appropriate interventions are then developed in order to meet the needs of all students.

Also of benefit to our students this year has been our before/after-school tutoring program on Wednesdays and our Response to Intervention Model (RtI). Many of our third through sixth graders have taken advantage of the tutoring program to receive extra support from our classroom teachers. Our first and second graders who are at-risk academically have seen tremendous gains while receiving intense, direct support from certified special education staff members, reading consultants and highly-trained paraprofessionals on a daily basis.

As we look toward the 2008-2009 school year, we see many challenges ahead. Though we have seen a significant increase in our writing scores, we still must reach 100% proficiency by 2014.

Also, test scores for our students with disabilities are not up to the required standards. Additional effective strategies will need to be developed, implemented and closely monitored to ensure that all Wiley students have the opportunity to be successful.

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

- Wiley received an "A" on the State of Michigan school report card.
- Wiley students and staff were honored to host a UCS Board of Education meeting in March.
- Sixth grader Anthony Alu had his story published in *Kaleidoscope*, the Michigan Reading Association publication of student works.
- Our show choir, "Wiley Explosion," was once again invited to sing at the State Capitol Building in Lansing.
- Wiley's Code of Honor program recognized more than 150 students this past year.
- Wiley students had the opportunity to meet with author Mike DiLorenzo in April.
- Community Involvement:
  - Toys for Tots
  - Kiwanis Food Drive
  - St. Jude Math-A-Thon
  - Trick or Treat for UNICEF
  - Jump Rope for Heart