



DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mark Twain School for Scholars

12800 Visger Street
Detroit, Michigan 48217-1056

Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter (2013-2014)

August 15, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

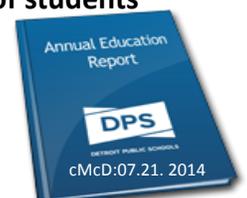
We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for the Mark Twain School for Scholars. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by Federal and State laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact, Linda Whitaker, Principal at (313) 386-5530 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the District's website <http://detroitk12.org/aer> or the school's website at <http://detroitk12.org/schools/twain/>. You may also view a printed copy in the main office at your child's school or at the Parent Resource Center located at the Detroit International Academy, Room 141, 9026 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

The State has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the State. Our school has not been given one of these labels.

The key challenges for our school are as follows:

- **We did not test 95% of our students.**
 - Only 81.25% of the All Students subgroup was assessed in social Studies.
- **We did not attain Differentiated target achievement goals for all subgroups of students in reading.**



- Only 36.67% of the Bottom 30% subgroup met the Differentiated target in reading.
- **We did not attain Differentiated target achievement goals for all subgroups of students in writing.**
 - Only 0.00% of the Bottom 30% subgroup met the Differentiated target in writing.
- **We did not attain Differentiated target achievement goals for all subgroups of students in mathematics.**
 - Only 10.00% of the Bottom 30% subgroup met the Differentiated target in mathematics.
- **We did not attain Differentiated target achievement goals for all subgroups of students in social studies.**
 - Only 15.38% of All Students; 0.00% of the Bottom 30%; 14.29% of the Black and 15.79% of the Economically Disadvantaged subgroups met the Differentiated target in social studies.

We are actively working to address our Michigan School Scorecard issues, accelerate student achievement and close persistent gaps in achievement. Mark Twain will improve/maintain its adequate yearly progress by continuing to emphasize cultural diversity and global awareness through the International Baccalaureate Program (IB). This includes the IB Learner Profile and the IB Traits. Community Schools will provide parents and wrap around services for students and parents/guardians. Targeted for improvement are all four content areas, student behavior and attendance. We will continue to collaborate in planning instruction, assessment and reflection in order to increase rigor. We will place additional emphasis on college readiness through progressively increasing the emphasis of the Common Core State Standards. Mark Twain will have focused Professional Development on best practices in the content areas a, and on differentiated instructions to better address the need of individual students. We will also continue to give parents the opportunity to continue/increase their involvement in the school programs. Some of the initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- Highly Qualified teachers and staff for students
- Professional development opportunities for teachers and staff
- Quality after school educational programs for students
- Quality parent enrichment programs for parents and community participates
- Diverse instruction for students
- Rigorous research based curriculum for all students

Parent Involvement

Parents will be given the opportunity to engage their child in the after-school programs, attend parent professional development, PACSA (Parent Advisory Committee for student Achievement) meetings, Parent Teacher/Student Conferences and field trips. They will make sure that their child/children attend school every day, on time with homework completed. Parents will ensure that their child/children get adequate sleep, regular medical attention and proper nutrition. In addition, they must support the discipline code

and participate in the shared decision-making with school staff and community. Highlight of Mark Twain's Parent Programs are:

Increased attendance during Parent Teacher Conferences

Increased parent volunteers

- Active PASCA organization
 - New PASCA sponsored events
 - Workshops
 - Homework Support
 - Stress Management
 - Educational parent field trips
 - Charles Wright Museum
 - Second Baptist Underground Railroad
 - Dome Theater
- Attending and participating in community based events sponsored at the school
 - THAW Program
 - DTE Programs
 - Kohl's Community outreach programs
- Michigan Department of Human Services Programs
 - School Uniforms
 - Family financial services
 - Wraparound services for families

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Detroit Public Schools has an "Open Enrollment Initiative." This initiative allows students to elect to attend any Detroit Public School without being required to live within the boundary for that school. The "Open Enrollment Initiative" does not apply to the Examination High Schools or Application Schools. Parents may enroll their child(ren) in the school of their interest as long as the school has not reached capacity for their particular grade. Enrollment preference is given to students who live within the boundary of a school.

It should also be noted that transportation will not be provided for students who select a school outside of the boundary of their home school. "Open Enrollment Initiative" resources can be found on our website at: http://detroitk12.org/resources/prospective_students/

School Improvement Status

Year	School Improvement Status
2013-2014	No Status
2012-2013	No Status

Detroit Public Schools' Core Curriculum:

Consistent with the Detroit Public Schools 2013-2017 Strategic Plan, there are aggressive plans to accelerate the rate of student achievement and to ensure that students graduate with the academic and social skills necessary for success in college and the workplace.

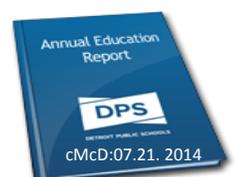
Specific curriculum actions are based on the District's strategic plan to:

- I. Broaden Services to Address Student Needs
- II. Support Parents and Families
- III. Offer Broad/High Quality Programs
- IV. Improve Customer Service
- V. Create Safe Learning Environments
- VI. Transform Central and School based services to serve customers better
- VII. Improve Technology
- VIII. Minimize the Impacts of Change
- IX. Foster School-Based Leadership
- X. Celebrate and Promote Success
- XI. Ensure Fiscal Stability
- XII. Improve Attendance and Discipline

The "Neighborhood-Centered, Quality Schools," Strategic Plan, is available online at http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Strategic_Plan_DRAFT-FINAL.pdf

Access to the Core Curriculum

The instructional strategies and grade level expectations are aligned to the State standards and the NAEP. This represents the core curriculum, which is supported by the texts, materials, computer software and other school level resources used daily in the classrooms. All of the professional development activities are aligned to the core curriculum.



Access to the Curriculum (Continued)

The implementation is a process delineated in the District Plan. This plan serves as the framework for each school's academic achievement plan.

The frequent monitoring of the implementation of these plans are conducted by the school diagnostic visits, review of the benchmark assessments, use of the teacher evaluation tool and adherence to the pacing calendar.

The variances from the State Plan can be found in the grade level expectations, which are also aligned to the higher standards of NAEP.

Parents/Guardians are offered classes to increase parenting skills, early childhood literacy, adult literacy and GED. During the school year, the Regional Parent Resource Center is a vehicle for parents and other community members to participate in regular and on-going informational and participatory sessions focused on curriculum and instruction. Learning Village (an online instructional management system), Web updates and semi-annual progress reports are a means to disseminate achievement information to educators. Parents will have the opportunity to monitor students' progress, including attendance, through **Parent Connect** in the Fall.

Detroit Public Schools Core Curriculum is currently under revision. Pacing Charts and Curriculum guides will be posted to the Division of Teaching and Learning under the Leadership page of our website in the near future.

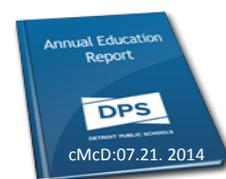
Parent Engagement

- ❖ Use the technology portal for parents to view daily lessons and to communicate with teachers.
- ❖ Implement and follow through with the parent contracts.
- ❖ Use the Parent Resource Center to engage parents in innovative workshops and sessions that are practical and will result in parent support to students at home.

Student Achievement Results

Aggregate Student Achievement Results and Detroit Public Schools Quarterly NWEA~MAP Reading and Mathematics reports for Mark Twain School for Scholars can be found on the Detroit Public Schools' web page at the Research, Evaluation and Assessment site at <http://detroitk12.org/data/rea/>. The following reports are available:

- District Profile Report



Student Achievement Results (Continued)

- Combined School Profile Reports
- Individual School Profile Reports
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports
- Michigan Accountability Scorecard Report
- Annual Education Report
- NWEA ~ MAP aggregate student achievement results

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Interactions):

School Year	Total Parent Interactions	Percent
2013-2014	296	24.8%
2012-2013	241	25.2%

The Detroit Public Schools' Office of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability has developed a data collection system which has enabled the District to comply with the Annual Education Report criteria of identifying the number and percent of students represented by parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTC).

- 1.0 Data from the PTC Forms represent “parent interactions” with teachers, per school, per card marking.
- 2.0 Parent Interaction Definition: During Parent-Teacher Conferences Schools/Teachers are advised to have each parent participant provide a parent signature-a parent may not sign for a student if they did not talk about that student.
- 3.0 Several DPS schools had a very high percentage of reported parent interactions. This may be due to a number of reasons. In at least eight (8) instances, the calculated percentages are in excess of 100%. In each instance, each of these eight (8) schools may have experienced a large parent turnout at each of the required conferences. If during each conference, one (1) parent with two (2) students enrolled in the school visited three (3) teachers for each of their two (2) students, this would count as six (6) parent interactions, thus increasing the base number and resulting percentage.

We would like to wish our students, parents and community a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Linda Whitaker, Principal

