

Detroit Public Schools

Harms Elementary School

Annual Education Report (AER)

August 16, 2010

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2009-2010 educational progress for the Harms Elementary School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact the school office.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.detroitk12.org/AER or you may review a copy in Harms Elementary School's office.

For 2009-2010 school year, Harms Elementary School met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English Language Arts and mathematics. We are currently in AYP Phase **0**. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

Harms' students will be assessed using the STAR Reading, STAR Math, DIBELS and STAR Early Literacy computer-based assessments to determine students' reading skills, math skills and students' early literacy skills in preparation for reading. At Harms, the purpose of STAR assessments and DIBELS are to provide information to teachers about student growth and achievement in grades K-5. Students take the assessment individually and the software scores it automatically. Teachers and administrators are able to view and print various types of reports, at the individual, classroom and grade level in order to monitor progress. Afterwards, teachers will tailor instruction to individuals and to high-stakes testing requirements. Each assessment provides estimates of students' skills and comparisons of students' abilities to national norms. Each is intended to aid with developing feedback about student, classroom, and grade level progress. The software reports grade equivalents, percentile ranks, and normal curve equivalents. Each assessment is standardized and highly correlated to other assessments. After teachers review the data, students will be assigned the support services of their teachers, resource teachers, school service assistants, parental and college volunteers based on their individual need. Ongoing progress monitoring occurs at the end of every report card marking to reassess students' progress and to monitor and adjust the individualized instruction so that the student can be most successful. The assessments determine the appropriate level of challenge for each student, which allows the teacher to personalize practice in addition to individualizing the instruction. At Harms, teachers will access the STAR assessments on web-based Renaissance Place software. With STAR

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Reading and DIBELS teachers assess students' reading levels in less than 10 minutes. They receive accurate, reliable, norm-referenced reading scores including grade equivalents, percentile ranks, and normal curve equivalents. Screening is the 1st step in Response to Intervention (RTI) and RTI is a way to organize time and resources to deliver extra help to kids who need it most. With STAR Early Literacy, students can accurately and reliably assess 41 skills in 7 key early literacy domains. It screens students for placement, diagnostic assessment, progress monitoring, growth measurement, and outcomes assessment. Accelerated Reader (AR) is another program successfully implemented by staff at Harms Elementary. AR allows students to have the most essential reading practice at their own reading level. The program manages all reading activities each student accomplishes including *read to*, *read with*, and *read independently*. It assesses students' reading with a variety of types of quizzes: Reading Practice, Vocabulary Practice, Literacy Skills and Textbook Quizzes. Students' progress and levels are conveyed to parents through conferences, progress reports, and phone calls consistently throughout the each school year. STAR, STAR Early Literacy and AR builds a lifelong love of reading and learning for Harms' students.

Parents/guardians you can become involved in the successful education of your child(ren) by:

- Making sure that your child is in school every day possible!
 - Make sure they arrive;
 - On time!
 - On Task!
 - Ready to learn!
- Establish a daily family routine with scheduled homework time.
 - Designate a time and place for your child to do homework. Make sure all assignments are completed and promptly returned when due.
 - Be aware of tests and project schedules
- Use TV wisely
 - Academic Achievement drops for children who watch more than 10 hours a week.
 - Limit the amount of time spent watching TV
 - Select educational programs
 - Watch and discuss shows with your child(ren). This will help children understand how stories are structured.
- Make sure your child has access to a computer and the Internet
- Partner with your child's teacher, stay informed about your child(ren)'s progress at school.
- Participate on local school committees
- Become a member of the Local School Community Organization (LSCO)
- Volunteer in and around school

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State law requires that we also report additional information.

Process for assigning pupils to the school

During the 2009-2010 school year, students were required to live within the boundary of the school to which they were assigned.

During the 2010-2011 school year Open Enrollment Detroit Public Schools implemented the “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 web-site at:
http://detroitk12.org/resources/prospective_students/

School Improvement Status

Year	School Improvement Status
2009-2010	N/A - AYP Met
2008-2009	N/A - AYP Not Met

Detroit Public Schools’ Core Curriculum:

Attached

Student Achievement Results

Aggregate Student Achievement Results and Detroit Public Schools Quarterly Benchmark Assessment in Reading and Mathematics for Harms Elementary School 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
- Combined School Profile Reports
- Individual School Profile Reports
- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports
- Annual Education Report

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A hard copy is also available in the school's office. Contact the school's principal for more details.

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Interactions)

The Detroit Public Schools' Office of Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability is developing a data collection system which will enable 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. We are currently able to report the number of parent interactions as ascertained by Parent-Teacher-Conferences signature lists submitted by DPS schools. In the future, we will report the data according to the Annual Education Report criteria.

During the 2009-2010 school year, Robinson Elementary-Middle School reported 1,259 parent interactions. In 2008-2009, there were 1,130 parent interactions reported.

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

Sincerely,

Karen White, Ed.D., Principal



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Detroit Public Schools' Core Curriculum:

Consistent with the District academic plan, **Excellent Schools for Every Child**, 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 include:

- *alignment of the curriculum, lessons planning and pacing calendars to national and state standards
- *ensuring that material and texts and supplemental resources and used in the classroom are directly linked to and with the grade expectations
- *defined grade level expectations to create alignment throughout the school
- * Administration and review of quarterly benchmark assessments for students in grades 3-12
- *use pre-intervention tools such as the Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBLES) to assess language fluency for students on grades Prek-2 to ensure literacy foundation for reading success
- *use of the data (both formal and informal) to inform teaching strategies and professional development needs for staff, including but not limited to, teachers and administrators
- *focused professional development on the use of appropriate curriculum and teaching strategies, monitoring results and developing the interventions for re-teaching, as necessary
- *use technology (Learning Village/an on-line instructional management system) as a tool to manage instruction and teacher practice

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 soft ware and other school level resources used daily in the classrooms. All of the professional development activities are aligned to the core curriculum.

The implementation is a process delineated in the District Plan **Excellent Schools for Every Child**. This plan serves as the framework for each school's academic achievement plan. The frequent monitoring of the implementation of these plans is conducted by the school diagnostic visits, review of the benchmark assessments, use of the teacher evaluation tool and adherence to the pacing calendar.



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

A Summer Parent University is offered with classes to increase parenting skills, early childhood literacy, adult literacy and GED. During the school year, the Regional Parent Resource Center are a vehicle for parents and other community member to participate in regular and on-going informational and participatory sessions focused on curriculum and instruction. Learning Village (an on line instructional management system)

Web updates and semi-annual progress reports are also a means to disseminate information to parents and community.

Detroit Public Schools Core Curriculum is currently under revision. Pacing Charts and Curriculum guided will be posted to the Academic Affairs page of our web-site in the near future.

Parent Engagement

- *Use the technology portal for parents to view daily lessons and to communication with teachers

- *implement and follow through with the parent contracts

- *increase the Volunteer Reading Corps from approximately 5000 volunteers this year to 10,000 for next school year

- *use the Parent Resource Center to engage parents in innovative workshops and session that are practical and will result in parent support to students at home



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