

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Thirkell Elementary School

7724 14th Street
Detroit, Michigan 48206-2644

Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter (2011-2012)

August 13, 2012

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2011-2012 educational progress for the Thirkell 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 Dr. Clara Smith, Principal at (313) 596-0990 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the District's web site <http://detroitk12.org/aer> or the school's website at <http://detroitk12.org/schools/school/351/>. You may also review a printed copy in the main office at your child's school or in the Parent Resource Center located at the Detroit International Academy, Room 141, 9026 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

For 2011-2012, Thirkell Elementary School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in the tested subjects (mathematics, reading, science, social studies and writing; as appropriate for the school grade levels tested). 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.

Maintaining our Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) status is a major goal at Thirkell Elementary. In order to maintain Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) it is essential that Teachers are Highly Qualified, teaching in their areas of expertise, and in the correct grade levels. Teachers must communicate only high expectations and expect only excellence from their students. Once MEAP data has been analyzed, teachers can see the areas where students were not proficient and need additional instruction. Instruction must be geared around these GLCE's with rigor. The curriculum for improving and/or maintaining Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) must be student centered, challenging, and able to increase Higher Order Thinking Skills.

Teachers must work with Teacher Leaders in grade levels to develop pre and post tests, lesson plans, bell work, and homework that focus on deficient skills and GLCE's that are congruent with the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP).

Attendance is another major factor in maintaining and/or improving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). There must be frequent newsletters and phone calls to parents stressing the importance of students attending school daily. The school must be viewed as a learning institution where goals are met, careers are determined, and dreams become realities.

Parent Involvement

A parent brochure will be created to give parents helpful tips on test taking strategies as well as example test and released items for the MEAP. Parents will be encouraged to listen to their child read daily along with general techniques for enhancing comprehension. A webinar will be created where teachers share with parents and students skills and concepts that are difficult for student mastery.

The school will continue to work with the Local School Community Organization (LSCO) to encourage parents to attend academic in-services for reading and mathematics, homework help, as well as in-services that explains Adequate Yearly Process (AYP). Parents with students taking the MEAP (Grades 3 through 5) will learn how to interpret their child's MEAP scores and compare the School's and District's MEAP summaries.

Parents will be invited to join the Parent Connection and encouraged to attend the numerous workshops that will be presented throughout the school year by the Parent Connection at the local Parent Centers. Parents are encouraged to volunteer, serve as hall monitors, room moms and dads, service and patrol supervisors, crossing guards, mentors, as well as assist in our Title 1 Before and/or After School Tutorial Programs.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

During the 2011-2012 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
2011-2012	No AYP ~ AYP Met
2010-2011	N/A ~ AYP Met

Detroit Public Schools’ Core Curriculum:

Consistent with the Detroit Public Schools Academic Plan for 2012-2013, 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 five (5) pillars of student achievement:

- I. Talent management,
- II. High quality teaching and learning,
- III. Rigorous, transparent and continuous improvement cycle,
- IV. Customer service approach to community and each other, and
- V. A secure, inclusive and dynamic culture.

An Executive Summary of The 2012-2013 Academic Action Plan, is available online at http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/FINALAcademicPlanExecutive-Summary_2012.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.

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



Access to the Core Curriculum: (Continued)

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.

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 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 also a means to disseminate information to parents and the community.

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 web-site 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 Benchmark Assessment in Reading and Mathematics for Thirkell 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:

Student Achievement Results (Continued)

- District Profile Report
- Combined School Profile Reports
- Individual School Profile Reports



- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Reports

- Annual Education Report

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Interactions):

School Year	Total Parent Interactions	Percent
2011-2012	436	37.7%
2010-2011 (Corrected)	528	51.3%

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.

- 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 (and in some instances school open houses) 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 seven (7) instances, the calculated percentages are in excess of 100%. In each instance, each of these seven (7) schools is an elementary school or a Foundation for Early Learners School with 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,

Dr. Clara Smith, Principal

