

Academy of The Americas

5680 Knokel Street
Detroit, Michigan 48210-3298

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 Academy of The Americas. 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 Denise Fielder, Principal at (313) 596-7640 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/school/341/>. You may also review 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.

For 2011-2012, Academy of The Americas 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.

We will maintain our AYP status in the following ways:

1. Through professional development in the areas of:
 - a. Strategic Intervention
 - b. Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol (SIOP)
 - c. Thinking maps
 - d. Professional Learning Communities
2. Scheduled common time for planning to increase teaming
3. Assistance from resources:
 - a. Instructional Specialist/Literacy Coach
 - b. Dual Language Immersion Consultant
 - c. Grade Level Team Leaders

4. Conduct first language literacy instruction to support growth in a second language.

Parent Involvement

Parents have many opportunities to be involved in our learning community. They are encouraged to attend:

1. Adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes
2. Workshops and parent trainings specific to grade level expectations
3. Parent trainings to support instruction focusing on at risk students
4. Required attendance at the Dual Language Immersion informational meetings.

Additionally, parents/guardians you can become involved in the successful education of your son/daughter by helping them get S.M.A.R.T. - establishing goals, which are:

Specific – What, Why and How

Masurable - “If you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it.” Help your son/daughter measure their progress, stay on track and reach their target dates.

Attainable - Help your son/daughter make the commitment to take the small steps to accomplish the goals they have set.

Realistic - Is it “do-able?”- Help your son/daughter understand that do-able does not mean easy. It means that they are able to push themselves to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to meet their goals.

Timely – Help your son/daughter set a time limit. “Fixing to” or “getting ready to” - are not viable points in time. Whatever the goal may be – Graduation?! - Help your son/daughter establish the urgency to begin now – Take action. (Available online at <http://www.goal-setting-guide.com/goal-setting-tutorials/smart-goal-setting>)

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

During the 2011-2012 school year, 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.

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 Academy of The Americas 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

Parent-Teacher Conferences (Interactions):

School Year	Total Parent Interactions	Percent
2011-2012	285	9.5%
2010-2011 (Corrected)	1001	34.5%

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.



Parent Teacher Conferences (Interactions): (Continued)

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,

Denise Fielder, Principal

