

Blackwell Institute
9330 Shoemaker
Detroit, Michigan 48213-3152

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 Blackwell Institute. 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 Patricia Hines, Principal at (313) 866-4391 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/316/>. 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, Blackwell Institute did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) because:

We did not meet the 90% attendance rate goal.

- Attendance Rate for All Students 81.4%; Black 81.3%; Economically Disadvantaged 81.4%.

Blackwell Institute was also named a Priority School because the school's performance is in the bottom 5% of the State based on student achievement, achievement gaps and student growth over time in the tested subjects (mathematics, reading, science, social studies and writing; as appropriate for the school grade levels tested). Information used to rank schools is based on the development of the Top to Bottom list of schools and their performance.

We are actively working to address our AYP issues by having continuous staff trainings on how to integrate technology into the curriculum. We will review and analyze testing data and continue to provide student interventions during school and in the after-school programs. The school will maintain workshops for parents that will include additional support and resources to increase student achievement. We will continue to have monthly

progress reports to communicate with students and parents. Moreover, teachers will continue to analyze a variety of testing data to align their instruction with the students' needs and overall student improvement, in order to develop an Individual Learning Plan for each student. Lastly, Blackwell Institute teachers will continue to use ongoing assessments to create effective strategies as a way to monitor student progress toward mastery of skills, GLCEs, and the Common Core Standards.

Parent Involvement

Our parents can be involved through:

- ❖ Monthly Blackwell School Community Organization (BSCO) meetings
- ❖ School Improvement Team
- ❖ Volunteer aides for before, during and after school
- ❖ Reading, Math and Technology Family Nights
- ❖ Award presentations
- ❖ Winter and Spring School Programs
- ❖ Athletic events
- ❖ Fieldtrips chaperones
- ❖ Reading Volunteers
- ❖ Thanksgiving Basket Give-a-ways (for our needy families)
- ❖ Homework Help/Refresher Tips
- ❖ Accelerated Reader – Parent Reports
- ❖ Parent Teacher Conferences
- ❖ Online Grade-book Access
- ❖ Parent Resource Room
- ❖ Lunchroom Volunteers
- ❖ Parent/Student Learning Village
- ❖ Parent Connect

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	Priority ~ AYP Not 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.



Access to the Core Curriculum: (Continued)

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 Blackwell Institute 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	195	8.8%
2010-2011 (Corrected)	613	20.1%

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,

Patricia Hines, Principal

