



# DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Priest Elementary-Middle School

7840 Wagner Street  
Detroit, Michigan

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

August 15, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

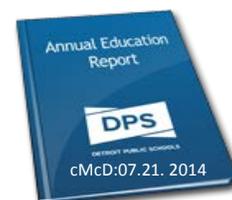
We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for the Priest Elementary-Middle School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by Federal and State laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact, Lisa Billops, Principal at (313) 849-3705 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/priest/>. 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 attain Differentiated target achievement goals for all subgroups of students in reading.**
  - Only 21.64% 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 11.19% 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 science.**
  - Only 7.25% of the All Students; 0.00% of the Bottom 30%; 12.05% of the Hispanic; 5.65% of the Economically Disadvantaged and 7.84% of the Students with Disabilities subgroups met the Differentiated target in science.
- **We did not attain Differentiated target achievement goals for all subgroups of students in social studies.**
  - Only 17.74% of All Students; 0.00% of the Bottom 30%; 16.51% of the Economically Disadvantaged and 18.89% of the Students with Disabilities 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.

Data taken from the 2013-2014 MEAP reflects substantial gains in the field of English Language Arts and Writing. Reading benchmarks that our school achieved this year are more than six years ahead of our projected targets, while writing proficiency is more than five years ahead of target. These gains can be attributed to our renewed and continual commitment to individualized attention with reading and writing, specifically through our Success for All Program. Targeted gains were exceeded with mathematics this year, however we realize that in order to continue this success, there needs to be an increased commitment individualized instruction. To this end, our school is proposing a program whereby students are given access to their grade level content while taking a second hour and addressing individual needs in a whole school, smaller class size environment. It is our contention that this individualized monitoring and instruction will strengthen skills that are an absolute necessity for increased mathematical understanding. Although our target for social studies was not achieved this year, we are emboldened by our gains, which increased at more than 10% from last year. These gains correlate with our positive results in reading comprehension. To further enhance our social studies curriculum, our school will be infusing the concepts found in social studies within our language arts program. We will be integrating social studies concepts within whole school events, such as history fact of the day, diorama presentations, and dramatic productions. Our school was encouraged to see science make gains towards our targets; however they are currently not commensurate with the state and

district expectations. We endeavor to make science a greater priority for the upcoming year. We will infuse science concepts within the mathematics intervention period by having our Title 1 mathematics coordinator plan conjointly with our science instructors. Our school will allow for a dedicated science hour that is unimpeded by the demands of other classes.

## Parent Involvement

Parental involvement is crucial to any student growth. In this capacity, we make continued efforts to build a community of learning that reaches from school to home. Our core curriculum nights bring in a large percentage of parents who wish to explore academic subjects with their children. It is our intention to expand school wide projects like science fair so that students can share their accomplishments with their parents in a social setting. Running concurrently with our Success For All Program, we have begun to send home greeting cards and e-mails outlining upcoming events and student achievement. As well, social barbecues, picnics, and seasonal festivals have been planned to further reinforce the bonds between home and school.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

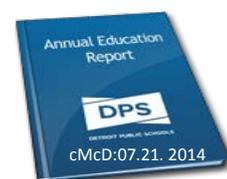
## Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

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/](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

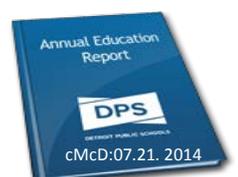
The "Neighborhood-Centered, Quality Schools," Strategic Plan, is available online at [http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Strategic\\_Plan\\_DRAFT-FINAL.pdf](http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Strategic_Plan_DRAFT-FINAL.pdf)

### **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.

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

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.

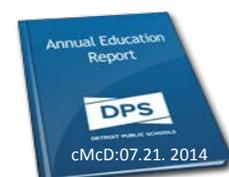
## Parent Engagement

- ❖ 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 Priest Elementary-Middle 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
- 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	782	23.6%
2012-2013	955	25.5%

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 (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,

Lisa Billops, Principal