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## Mark Twain School for Scholars

12800 Visger Street  
Detroit, Michigan 48217-1056

### 2014-2015 School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

April 22, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-2015 educational progress for the Mark Twain School for Scholars. 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 Mumtaz Haque, Principal, at (313) 386-5530 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the District's website <http://detroitk12.org/aer>, the school's website at <http://detroitk12.org/schools/twain/> or the MiSchool Data website at <https://goo.gl/UV7uZh>. You may review a copy in the main office at your child's school or in the Office of Parent and Community Engagement, Fisher Building, 12th Floor, 3011 W. Grand Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

Due to the Michigan Department of Education's transition to the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), Accountability data for the 2014-2015 school year does not include school/district-level proficiency targets or final accountability outcomes. This information will resume being a part of the Annual Education Report starting with 2015-2016 data. Graduation, Attendance and Participation Rates are included as a part of the Annual Education Report for the 2014-2015 school year.

The key challenges for our school are as follows:

**We did not meet the 90% attendance rate goal.**

The attendance rate for the All Students subgroup is 87.66%

We are actively working to address our attendance challenges, accelerate student achievement and close persistent gaps in achievement. Efforts are being made to actively address Mark Twain's concentration to accelerate student performance and close the achievement gaps. Mark Twain will improve/maintain its adequate yearly progress by continuing to emphasize cultural diversity and global awareness through the International Baccalaureate Program (IB). This includes the IB Learner Profile and the IB Traits. Community Schools will provide ancillary services for students and parents/guardians parents and wrap around services for students and parents/guardians. These services will target basic needs required for home and school connections. Targeted programs for improvement are continuously implemented in all core subjects (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies). We will continue to collaborate in planning instruction, assessment and reflection in order to increase rigor. Mark Twain will also continue to utilize the gifted and talented accelerated programs for students who demonstrate academic readiness. We will place additional emphasis on college readiness through progressively increasing the emphasis on the Common Core State Standards. Mark Twain will have focused Professional Development on best practices in the content areas and on differentiated instruction to better address the needs of individual students. We will also continue to give parents the opportunity to continue/increase their involvement in the school programs. Some of the initiatives include, but are not limited to:

- ✚ Highly Qualified teachers and staff for students
- ✚ Professional development opportunities for teachers and staff
- ✚ Quality after school educational programs for students
- ✚ Quality parent enrichment programs for parents and community participates
- ✚ Diverse instruction for students
- ✚ Rigorous research based curriculum for all students
- ✚ Incentives to students to improve daily attendance
- ✚ Accelerated educational opportunities

## **Parent Involvement**

Parents will be given the opportunity to engage their child in after-school programs, attend parent professional development, PACSA (Parent Advisory Committee for student Achievement) meetings, Parent Teacher/Student Conferences and field trips. PACSA parents are also key partners in developing the School Improvement Plan as part of the team. They will make sure that their child/children attend school every day, on time with homework completed. Parents will ensure that their child/children get adequate sleep, regular medical attention and proper

## Parent Involvement (Continued)

nutrition. In addition, they must support the student discipline code and participate in the shared decision-making with school staff and community.

Highlights of Parent Programs at Mark Twain are:

- Incentives for parents to Increase attendance during Parent Teacher Conference
- A proactive Parent Advisory Council on Student Achievement (PACSA) organization focused on increasing parent involvement at Mark Twain
  - ✚ New PACSA Sponsored Events, Activities and Programs
  - ✚ Parent Workshops on educational topics on a regular basis
  - ✚ Homework Support
  - ✚ Stress management Workshops for parents
  - ✚ Communicating Effectively with Staff and Parents
  - ✚ Student Recruitment Campaign
- **Educational parent field trips such as:**
  - ✚ to Charles Wright Museum
  - ✚ Second Baptist Underground Railroad
  - ✚ Dome Theater
- **Community based events sponsored at the school such as:**
  - ✚ THAW Program
  - ✚ DTE Programs
  - ✚ Kohl's Community outreach programs
  - ✚ Michigan Department of Human Services Programs
  - ✚ School Uniforms
  - ✚ Family financial services
  - ✚ Wraparound services for families

State law requires that we also report additional information.

## Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

### Open Enrollment Initiative

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

### **Open Enrollment Initiative (Continued)**

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/)

### **Application Schools**

Detroit Public Schools has twenty-two (22) schools that require an application for enrollment. Families can apply during the application process window. Applications are open to families of current Detroit Public Schools students as well as those newly enrolling or attending school elsewhere. The District uses one application for its Application Schools. Please note requirements on the application for submission of report cards, test data, transcripts, essay and Grade Point Average information. Schools also may have other individual entry requirements. Be prepared to provide behavior reports.

### **Examination High Schools**

During the Examination High Schools application window, all 8th grade students attending public and non-public schools are eligible to apply for admission to the 9th grade at Cass Technical High School, Renaissance High School and Martin Luther King, Jr. Senior High School's Mathematics, Science and Applied Technology (MSAT) and Center for International Studies and Commerce programs. Residency is not required. During the beginning of the school year, students must complete and submit an application to take the placement examination.

An application is available at:

- All Detroit Public Libraries
- All Detroit Public School's Middle Schools
- Detroit Public Schools Parent Resource Centers
- Detroit Public Schools Research and Assessment Office located in the Support Services Complex Building A - 1425 East Warren Avenue

Students must submit an application to be eligible to take the examination. Completed applications and all required documents must be submitted to the student's current school or the Detroit Public Schools' Office of Research and Assessment. Detroit Public Schools' students who submit an application will test at their middle school. Non-Detroit Public Schools' students who submit an application will be notified of their testing date and location by mail. Applications may be mailed.

## School Improvement Status

Year	School Improvement Status
2014-2015	N/A
2013-2014	No Status

We will continue to work towards meeting our School Improvement Plan goals in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies. Research-based strategies, comprehensive data analyses and data driven decision-making drives our school improvement efforts.

## School Description

Mark Twain School for Scholars is an application school. It offers a college-preparatory, inquiry-based curriculum with a global focus, as well as a gifted and talented program that offers an International Baccalaureate educational experience. The program emphasizes an accelerated instructional design that is academically challenging, yet aligned with each child's ability to prepare them for a top-tier learning environment. Highly qualified educators work together to develop each child's intellectual curiosity, foster a passion for learning and engage all students' individual intellectual talents.. Some Offerings: International Baccalaureate, 21st Century Technology, Gymnasium with Rock-Climbing Wall, Writing/Publishing Emphasis, Library, Dance, Sports. (From: Picking the Perfect School ~ Detroit Public Schools).

## 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

## Specific curriculum actions are based on the District’s strategic plan to: (Continued)

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 Michigan Department of Education standards (science and social studies) and Common Core State Standards (mathematics and English language arts). This represents the core curriculum for Detroit Public Schools 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 and/or standards. The implementation is a process delineated in the District Academic Plan ([http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/FINALAcademicPlanExecutive-Summary\\_2012.pdf](http://detroitk12.org/content/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/FINALAcademicPlanExecutive-Summary_2012.pdf)). 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 public may access the core curriculum via our public website [www.detroitk12.org](http://www.detroitk12.org) and then click on the link to the individual academic offices.

Parents/Guardians are offered classes through Parent University to increase parenting skills, early childhood literacy, adult literacy and GED. During the school year, the Parent Resource Centers are a valuable resource that allow parents and other community members to participate in regular and on-going informational and participatory sessions focused on curriculum and instruction. The Detroit Public Schools Hub, Web up-dates and semi-annual progress reports are a means to disseminate achievement information to educators.

## Student Achievement Results

Aggregate Student Achievement Results and Detroit Public Schools Quarterly NWEA~MAP Reading and Mathematics reports for our school can be found in the Resources section of our school’s website at <http://detroitk12.org/schools/twain/>. The following reports are available on the Detroit Public Schools’ web page at the Research, Evaluation and Assessment site at <http://detroitk12.org/data/rea/> :

- District Profile Report
- Combined School Profile Reports
- Individual School Profile Reports
- NWEA~MAP aggregate student achievement results
- [Michigan Accountability Scorecard Report](https://goo.gl/GmqXJ4) at (<https://goo.gl/GmqXJ4>)
- [Annual Education Report](http://detroitk12.org/aer) at ([detroitk12.org/aer](http://detroitk12.org/aer))

## Parent-Teacher Conferences (Interactions)

School Year	Total Parent Interactions	Percent
2014-2015	287	28.9%
2013-2014	296	24.8%

The Detroit Public Schools' Office of Research and Assessment 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 (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 Some Detroit Public Schools - schools had a very high percentage of reported parent interactions. This may be due to a number of reasons. In at least two (2) instances, the calculated percentages are in excess of 100%. In each instance, each of these two (2) 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.

Our staff wishes to encourage our students, parents, community and stakeholders to continue to have faith in our commitment to meet the educational needs of our students. Our resolve is firm; we will meet the challenge of "creating a successful future" for our students.

Sincerely,

Mumtaz Haque, Principal