Detroit Public Schools aspire to be among the world’s truly great school districts – advancing the well-being of the children of Detroit and the global community through the creation and dissemination of knowledge. Detroit needs a great teaching and learning school district for a rich flow of ideas, innovation, and graduates ready for the world of work or further study at universities.

**CORE STRATEGIES**

Our focus is on building academic excellence and four core strategies:

- Providing a high-quality, well-rounded educational experience to all students that is rigorous, relevant, and engaging
- Building strong relationships with students, families, and the community to increase trust and shared responsibility
- Ensuring that every classroom has a high quality effective educator, supported by high-quality effective administrators and support staff
-Aligning resources to accomplish priorities within a balanced budget

**Our Five Pillars of student achievement**

Talent management
High quality teaching and learning
Rigorous, transparent and continuous improvement cycle
Customer service approach to community and each other
A secure, inclusive and dynamic culture

**Why We Exist**

In partnership with parents and our community, Detroit Public Schools exists to provide a comprehensive educational experience that is high quality, challenging, and inspires all students to make a positive contribution to society.

**Where We Want to Be**

Detroit Public Schools will be nationally recognized as an outstanding school district, instilling a passion for life-long learning in all students.

**What We Believe In**

- Focus on Children
- Excellence
- Respect and Integrity
- Equity
- Health and Safety

**The DPS Advantage**

- Netbooks accessible for all students in grades 6-12
- Individualized Learning Plans for every child
- 9 languages
- Expanded time in reading and math
- Robust ESL classes
- Pre-Algebra for 7th graders
- Fine Arts
- Millions of dollars in building upgrades
- Safety and security enhancements

**How We Will Check Progress on Our Goals**

**WE WILL ASSESS MEASURABLE OUTCOMES, SUCH AS:**

- MEAP/MME proficiency rates for students who have been in the district for at least three consecutive years and less than three consecutive years.
- NAEP passing rates for students in grades 4 and 8.
- Graduation rates – the number of students in a 9th grade cohort who graduate within four years of their enrollment in 9th grade.
- College readiness – the number of graduates who meet or exceed ACT College readiness criteria.
- MME writing scores – the number of 11th graders scoring 1 or 2.
- Postsecondary enrollment – the number of seniors who enrolled in a four-year or two-year college or university or in a technical school within the first year after graduating.
- Enrollment in Advanced Placement (AP) courses – the number of students enrolled in AP courses and completing dual enrollment courses.
- Performance in AP courses – the number of students with AP test scores of 3, 4, or 5.
- District and campus accountability ratings – based on the district, the number of schools achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).
- Number of schools performing in the lowest 5 percent of schools statewide.
High Quality Teaching and Learning
Detroit Public Schools defines academic excellence as a rigorous and relevant education that is a product of high quality teaching and learning which takes place when standards, curriculum, instruction and assessment reinforce each other.

Initiatives Include:
- Developing a PK – 14 coherent and relevant curricula aligned to state, national and the Common Core State Standards focused on student understanding and differentiation models.
- Designing instruction based on research in teaching, learning and human development.
- Increasing instructional time to at least a 90-minute block in reading and mathematics in grades K-8.
- Added emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.
- Integrating technology seamlessly into the curriculum targeting students in grades 6 to 12 through the use of Netbooks and more.

Rigorous, Transparent, Continuous Improvement Cycle
Detroit Public Schools will build a rigorous, transparent, efficient improvement cycle based upon a structure of continuous monitoring, evaluation and data-driven decision-making.

Customer Service Approach
At the heart of improving student achievement and school culture is the need to intentionally and systematically focus on relationship development. Customer service encompasses all aspects of schooling. The DPS community will approach interactions with others with the knowledge that students are the “first” customer and decisions should reflect this.

Secure Inclusive and Dynamic Culture
Detroit Public Schools will continue to create an environment where all members of our community – students, teachers, parents, staff members, and others – feel safe, secure, welcome, able to contribute and eager to learn, regardless of background or beliefs.

Initiatives Include:
- Regular, ongoing professional development for all staff members on how to create and maintain inclusive school environments.
- Curriculum-embedded experiences for students to interact with other students and adults from different backgrounds.

Karen P. Ridgeway, Superintendent for Academics