



DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Gardner Elementary School

Annual Education Report (AER) 2010-2011

August, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for the Gardner Elementary School. 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 the school for assistance. You may also leave a message on the AER Hot-line (313) 873.6473 or email us at aer@detroitk12.org.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.detroitk12.org/AER or you may review a copy in Gardner Elementary School's office.

We are in **AYP Phase 2** for the 2010-2011 school year. We did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) because:

- ❖ We did not meet the 90% attendance rate goal.
 - Attendance Rates for Black Students 87.9%.

Because our school has not made AYP for 3 year(s), we are identified for School Improvement (SES).

We are working diligently to improve our AYP status. Attendance is the area in which our school is not meeting the target. The School Improvement Team has revised our attendance plan that details the requirements for attendance as well as strategies to improve student attendance. Our plan provides incentives and consequences for families that do not meet the district's mandatory attendance policy. This plan will be included in our new parent handbook and will also be handed out separately during the open house when it will be discussed in a classroom setting by each teacher.

Parent attendance at parent teacher conferences this past school year was low. In order to achieve our goal of becoming a center of excellence we must have the support of every parent and guardian. Not only is it imperative that parents attend the quarterly parent teacher conferences to keep abreast





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of their child (ren)'s progress, we need all parents to attend any activities concerning their children. For example, new parents should attend our orientation meeting for new students, all parents should attend the Open House in September, and those parents who receive letters regarding attendance issues are required to attend meetings with the principal and the attendance agent. We recommend that all parents or a representative attend the monthly LSCO parent meetings as well. Throughout the school year, we have planned activities to enhance the education of our students, benefit our parents and community and also offer them the opportunity to take part in the decision making process at Gardner.

We also need parents to monitor their children's school preparation in the morning and help them arrive in a timely manner. Parents must ensure that students only miss school when it is an emergency or illness and that the parent provides in writing an excuse for each day that the students are absent.

Finally, we encourage parents to make doctor appointments well in advance so they can schedule the time after the school day ends. We need the parents to make the 90% attendance rate their personal goal for their child or children this school year and every other school year. With the parents support and improved efforts in ensuring that their children come to school on time daily, our school will meet the attendance target just as we have met the academic targets each year.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Process for assigning pupils to the school

During the 2009-2010 school year, students were required to live within the boundary of the school to which they were assigned.

During the 2010-2011 school year Open Enrollment 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/





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School Improvement Status

Year	School Improvement Status
2010-2011	AYP Not Met ~ School Improvement (SES)
2009-2010	AYP Not Met ~ School Improvement

Detroit Public Schools' Core Curriculum:

Consistent with the District academic plan, **Excellent Schools for Every Child**, 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 include:

- *alignment of the curriculum, lessons planning and pacing calendars to national and state standards
- *ensuring that material and texts and supplemental resources and used in the classroom are directly linked to and with the grade expectations
- *defined grade level expectations to create alignment throughout the school
- * Administration and review of quarterly benchmark assessments for students in grades 3-12
- *use pre-intervention tools such as the Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBLES) to assess language fluency for students on grades Prek-2 to ensure literacy foundation for reading success
- *use of the data (both formal and informal) to inform teaching strategies and professional development needs for staff, including but not limited to, teachers and administrators
- *focused professional development on the use of appropriate curriculum and teaching strategies, monitoring results and developing the interventions for re-teaching, as necessary
- *use technology (Learning Village/an on-line instructional management system) as a tool to manage instruction and teacher practice

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 soft ware and other school level resources used daily in the classrooms. All of the professional development activities are aligned to the core curriculum.





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The implementation is a process delineated in the District Plan **Excellent Schools for Every Child**. This plan serves as the framework for each school's academic achievement plan. The frequent monitoring of the implementation of these plans is 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 are a vehicle for parents and other community member to participate in regular and on-going informational and participatory sessions focused on curriculum and instruction. Learning Village (an on line instructional management system)

Web updates and semi-annual progress reports are also a means to disseminate information to parents and community.

Detroit Public Schools Core Curriculum is currently under revision. Pacing Charts and Curriculum guided will be posted to the Academic Affairs page of our web-site in the near future.

Parent Engagement

- *Use the technology portal for parents to view daily lessons and to communication with teachers.
- *implement and follow through with the parent contracts.
- *increase the Volunteer Reading Corps from approximately 5000 volunteers this year to 10,000 for next school year.
- *use the Parent Resource Center to engage parents in innovative workshops and session 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 Gardner Elementary 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





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- 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
2010-2011	520	89.0%
2009-2010	578	N/A

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 For a variety of reasons, five (5) DPS schools are not included in the data collection count due to some school closures and non-return of Parent Teacher Conference Signature List Documents.
- 4.0 Several DPS schools had a very high percentage of reported parent interactions. This may be due to a number of reasons. In at least three (3) instances, the calculated percentages are in excess of 100%. In each instance, each of these three (3) schools is an elementary school with a large parent turnout at each of the four (4) 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,
Karen Doneghy, Principal

