

March 10, 2017

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the University Preparatory Academy school district and our schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact our Executive Director of Academics, Benjamin Allen ([benjamin.allen@uprepschools.com](mailto:benjamin.allen@uprepschools.com)) for help if you need assistance.

The district AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site (<https://goo.gl/osOR7o>), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. Each school will also be communicating their own AER to parents directly.

These reports contain the following information:

**Student Assessment Data** – Includes the following three assessments: **M-STEP** (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), **MI-Access** (Alternate Assessment), and **College Board SAT**. It provides assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and science for grades 4, 7, and 11, compared to state averages for all students as well as subgroups of students. The report helps users to understand achievement performance within grades and schools, and to make comparisons to district, state, and national achievement benchmarks.

**Accountability Scorecard** – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability scorecard status.

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**Teacher Qualification Data**

Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels. Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes

**NAEP Data** (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8

Review the table below listing our schools. For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or “Beating the Odds” by outperforming the school’s predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Ellen Thompson Elementary School	No Label	1. Schoolwide reform through EL Education. 2. Interim assessments and data analysis cycles through Achievement Network.
Mark Murray Elementary School	No Label	1. Schoolwide reform through EL Education. 2. Interim assessments and data analysis cycles through Achievement Network.
UPA Middle School	No Label	1. Schoolwide reform through EL Education. 2. Interim assessments and data analysis cycles through

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School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
		Achievement Network.
UPA High School	No Label	1. Schoolwide reform through EL Education.

I continue to find inspiration in the dedicated work that our staff, students, and families put in to our school. As we finish the current year and begin planning for the next, we continue to look for ways to push students toward higher levels of mastery of grade-level content. This year we have brought in district staff members who are dedicated to the implementation of our ELA and math curriculum. We continue to develop our students' ownership of their work through structures like student-led conferences and celebrations of learning. We also look forward to completing the renovation of our middle school, which will enhance the learning environment for all of our students in sixth through eighth grades.

We celebrate the work that is done in our schools, and we also recognize that parents are a critical part of each students' learning. I strongly encourage all parents and families to contact their child's school to find out how they can get involved. The front office staff in each school can help connect parents with volunteer opportunities, resources to use at home, and school community events.

Sincerely,

Danielle Jackson  
Chief Academic Officer  
University Prep Schools

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