

# DREAM ACADEMY



*"Building bridges to lifelong learning"*

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August 19, 2011

Dear DREAM Academy parents and community:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-11 educational progress for DREAM Academy.

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 Lacey James, school leader, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting: [www.dreamcharteracademy.com](http://www.dreamcharteracademy.com) or you may also review a copy from the school leader's office.

Every student deserves a quality choice in public education. Opening its doors in September 2008, DREAM Academy became that choice for Benton Harbor area teens. At DREAM, students have found the opportunity to learn in a caring, safe environment. Highly qualified teachers guide students from realistic expectations to academic success. Students at DREAM are receiving the help they need to be ready for college or the career of their choice. DREAM Academy is proudly managed by The Leona Group and chartered by Bay Mills Community College.

## **Our Mission**

DREAM Academy offers a quality choice in secondary education to Benton Harbor area teens. The school is committed to providing a safe, nurturing, academic environment that will allow each student to maximize his or her full potential in the classroom and beyond. DREAM Academy will re-engage and advance students by promoting high school completion, developing paths to college and challenging careers and fostering a desire to lead healthy, productive lives.

## **AYP Status of the School**

For 2010-11, DREAM Academy did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) because the academy did not test 95% of students and did not attain target achievement goals in English language arts or math. Because this is the first year that the academy has not made AYP, the school has been identified for improvement.

To address these concerns, Dream Academy is currently offering an ACT/MME preparation classes as part of its summer enrichment program. The academy will focus on the 11<sup>th</sup> grade co-hort groups once the 2011/12 school year begins by setting up small groups and conducting study drills for the spring 2012 ACT/MME Assessment. Dream Academy will continue to provide Saturday practice sessions for the ACT/MME Assessment. Teachers and staff will conduct five-minute writing assessments during the first five minutes of English class. The school will also offer "Stop and Read" reading drills, where students read a variety of excerpts and give a brief explanation of what they read. The academy has hired a highly

qualified math teacher for the 2011/2012 school year, and has made positive changes in the English curriculum to address reading.

**The annual education report contains the following information:**

**Student Assessment Data– Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and Michigan’s Alternative Assessment Program (MI-Access)**

- Presents achievement data for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 (MEAP), for grade 11 (MME) and science for grades 5 and 8 compared to targets for all students as well as subgroups of students
- Provides achievement data for English language arts, mathematics and science for students with significant disabilities (MI-Access) compared to targets for all students with disabilities as well as subgroups of students
- Helps readers understand achievement progress within schools and compare these to district and state achievement

**Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Detail Data and Status**

- Provides information from assessments, graduation and attendance rates and AYP status in relation to four criteria:
- The district must test 95% of students in total and in each required subgroup
- The district must attain achievement goals in English language arts and mathematics or reduce the percentage of students in the non-proficient category of achievement significantly ("safe harbor") annually
- The district must attain achievement goals for each subgroup that has at least 30 students in the group
- The district must meet or exceed the other academic indicators set by the state: graduation rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and middle schools

**Teacher Quality 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
- Cannot be compared with MEAP results for grades 4 and 8 because there are no national standards.

**State law requires that we also report additional information:**

**Process for assigning pupils to the school:**

- DREAM Academy is a free, public school and adheres to all requirements outlined by its charter authorizer and federal and state law regarding enrollments.
- The academy does not charge tuition nor discriminate in admissions policies or practices on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a handicapped person, religion, creed, race, sex, color or national origin.
- Current students are given the opportunity to re-enroll in late winter, with preference given to them and their siblings.
- In the spring, the school holds an advertised open enrollment period, during which any Michigan resident may apply.
- In the event that any grade is over-subscribed, a public lottery is held to determine enrollment and a waiting list.

- The academy identifies, evaluates and services all children in the school who may have disabilities. For more information regarding assistance for students with disabilities or if you suspect your child may have a disability, please contact the school leader.

### **The status of the 3-5 year school improvement plan:**

The academy's school improvement plan was developed throughout the school year by the school improvement team, which met to assess progress based on standards and objectives set forth by the state of Michigan and those outlined in the academy's charter contract. The plan is reviewed on an ongoing basis along with continuous review of the curriculum. Faculty and staff members were encouraged to submit feedback to the school improvement team for formal discussion.

There are ongoing improvements in curriculum for each content area. Dream established a consistent system for weekly lesson plans and a pacing guide for the year, which is updated each marking period. In 2011-12, the academy will have weekly staff meetings where each teacher will give a short presentation on the current lesson being taught and assessment results for that unit. The goal of the presentations is to collaborate on activity ideas, and what works and does not work for our students.

The ARISE Program has been implemented and provides valuable life skills to at-risk youth from adults who care for them. We enable youth to achieve their highest potential as law abiding citizens through ARISE group sessions conducted by well trained, caring ARISE facilitators. This program is a newly implemented 3 Tier educational and developmental opportunity for a selected number of our students. Twenty students per semester have been selected to take part in this program to assist him/her in taking the appropriate steps in meeting the state curriculum requirements for completion of their high school education.

The academy has adopted the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) model school-wide. This is a phenomenal model that teaches and acknowledges appropriate behaviors on a prevention-oriented basis, rather than reacting through suspension once a problem occurs. This may be the first step in turning the tide toward safer schools designed for keeping students in school and experiencing success.

The academy has started to realize tremendous academic and SWIS gains following the implementation of these two programs. According to SWIS data, the number of suspensions were reduced by 50% following the implementation of PBS.

The school improvement team included the school leader, instructional coach, resource teacher, parent, general education teacher, home liaison, food service, guidance counselor, security, intervention specialist, paraprofessional and board members.

### **Status of the curriculum**

The academy's core curriculum, which is available to all students and can be reviewed at the school, is fully aligned with state standards and benchmarks. The DREAM Academy's curriculum builds on key aspects of the Diploma Plus (DP) model, created by The Center for Youth Development and Education of The Commonwealth Corporation.

The DP formula for success combines high expectations for every student, a competency-based approach (in which students progress at their own pace), a personalized learning environment, and opportunities to make connections between what is learned in school and the world outside the classroom and challenging post-secondary experiences while still in high school.

Diploma Plus graduates receive much more than a full high school diploma -- they also gain strong academic and life skills, valuable work experience and college credits that can be applied to a future college degree.

The school leader and instructional coach worked closely with teachers and administrators to plan, pace and assess curriculum to ensure its quality and alignment with state standards. The school also assessed its curriculum through standardized tests. Additional methods of ensuring compliance with outlined curriculum standards included lesson plan monitoring, classroom observation and submission of classroom goals.

## Supplemental standardized testing: Scantron

### 2010-11

Location ^	Grade	Item Pool	Reading Student Count	Mean Reading SS	SE of Mean Reading SS	Reading Overall SIP (%)	Math Student Count (English)	Mean Math SS (English)	SE of Mean Math SS (English)	Math Overall SIP (%) (English)	Language Arts Student Count	Mean Language Arts SS	SE of Mean Language Arts SS	Language Arts Overall SIP (%)	Science Student Count	Mean Science SS	SE of Mean Science SS	Science Overall SIP (%)
DREAM Academy	Overall		200	2819		199	2620											
	Grade 9	Grade 9 *	44	2763	(33)	47	2615	(32)	21									
	Grade 10	Grade 10 *	45	2809	(34)	48	2569	(33)	17									
	Grade 11	Grades 10 - 12 *	52	2809	(37)	33	2637	(25)	22									
	Grade 12	Grades 10 - 12 *	59	2879	(26)	39	2647	(21)	23									

### 2009-10

Location ^	Grade	Item Pool	Reading Student Count	Mean Reading SS	SE of Mean Reading SS	Reading Overall SIP (%)	Math Student Count (English)	Mean Math SS (English)	SE of Mean Math SS (English)	Math Overall SIP (%) (English)	Language Arts Student Count	Mean Language Arts SS	SE of Mean Language Arts SS	Language Arts Overall SIP (%)	Science Student Count	Mean Science SS	SE of Mean Science SS	Science Overall SIP (%)
DREAM Academy	Overall		138	2692		140	2521											
	Grade 9	Grade 9 *	36	2597	(54)	30	2453	(39)	11									
	Grade 10	Grade 10 *	37	2698	(37)	36	2502	(41)	13									
	Grade 11	Grades 10 - 12 *	45	2733	(42)	26	2547	(26)	16									
	Grade 12	Grades 10 - 12 *	20	2758	(58)	28	2603	(65)	20									

### High School:

- Postsecondary enrollments (dual enrollment): 3 students (1.32%)
- College equivalent courses offered (AP/IB): 1
- Students enrolled in college equivalent courses (AP/IB): 8 students (4%)
- Students receiving a score leading to college credit: None

### Parent-Teacher Conferences

2010-11: 164 (72%) students were represented by parents at parent-teacher conferences  
 2009-10: 103 (45%) students were represented by parents at parent-teacher conferences

I would like to personally congratulate the staff, students and families of DREAM Academy on a successful school year. Thank you for choosing DREAM Academy for your child's education. We look forward to continuing to provide a quality education to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Lacey James  
 School Leader