

ANNUAL REPORT

▶ EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS ▶ 2000-2001

East Lansing Public Schools
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DISTRICT PROFILE

Our community has a long history of enthusiastic support for our schools. Not only do we enjoy close relationships with the City of East Lansing and Michigan State University, but we also benefit from 2,000 parent and community volunteers. The rich diversity of people, including those from over 40 countries, gives our students rare opportunities to learn about, understand, and respect differences among people.

We are a medium-sized suburban school district. Our 12½ square miles includes most of the city of East Lansing and small portions of Lansing, Lansing Township and Meridian Township. During

the 2000–01 school year, 3,587 students were educated in seven elementary schools (K–6), one middle school (7–8), and one high school (9–12). In June 2001, we graduated 260 seniors.

During the 2000–01 year, we employed 268 on our teaching staff, 61% of which hold advanced degrees. Many have also achieved state and national recognition in their fields.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

While the state requires every school district to develop and use a school improvement plan and East Lansing has been doing so for years, it is exciting to →





report that a strong curriculum change is in progress. A serious commitment needs serious resources, and for the second year in a row, elementary teacher Melody Glick was dedicated to this project full-time. High school teacher Cynthia Blakeslee split her time between the classroom and assisting the district as Elementary Science Coordinator.

Utilizing district wide staff input, the District School Improvement Team further enhanced the School Improvement Plan. All buildings are developing individual School Improvement Plans that reflect and support the district's program and five primary academic goals:

- The East Lansing Public Schools Curriculum will be aligned with the State of Michigan Curriculum Framework while providing an educational program that encourages academic excellence for all students.
- All East Lansing students will utilize technology to enhance learning.
- East Lansing students as productive members of society will be able to demonstrate their knowledge of critical thinking, civic and personal responsibility, and life skills.
- East Lansing Public Schools will make financial decisions to support student achievement that reflect ongoing investment in our school community.
- East Lansing Public Schools will continue to build and enhance communication and relationships with the community.

The Curriculum Council, created in 1998-99, continues the staff-driven process of curriculum development and reinvigorating the school improvement effort. Comprised of curriculum chairs across grades, subjects, and buildings, it is a powerful group that truly represents our daily classroom experience. This dedicated group is harnessing the experience, expertise, hopes and dreams of every staff member (as well as parents, students, and community) as they envision what our schools will look like as we continue to empower all our students to reach their full potential.

At the end of 2000-01, revisions to the science curriculum were completed with staff professional development and the writing of assessments to follow, the

review of math's middle sequence is in progress, as is the K-12 English Language Arts curriculum aligning with state standards.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

We are continuing to work on aligning our curriculum with the state of Michigan's curriculum. We will meet or exceed the state's requirements for what students should learn while encouraging academic excellence for all students. Recent changes to implement this goal are:

- Revisions to the science curriculum were completed and implemented in the classrooms, following more than two years worth of dedicated efforts by teachers and community members. The writing of science assessments is currently taking place.
- The K-12 social studies chairs continued working to streamline grade-level curriculum to reflect state standards with regular input from district staff.
- A review of transitioning the math curriculum from 5th to 6th grades, and 6th to 7th grades is under way. This process follows and aligns with the 1999-2000 outlining of which math concepts should be taught in which order as part of the curriculum,





and 1998–99 compilation of a notebook listing the math vocabulary and operations taught at each grade level and the most effective sequence for units of instruction.

- Full-day Kindergarten completed its second year of operation. Recognized early on as an example of Academic Excellence by the Michigan Education Association, Spartan Village Elementary School housed six classes serving children throughout the district. A traditional half-day Kindergarten is still available at neighborhood schools.

TECHNOLOGY & TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY

The Board of Education approved the revised K–12 technology curriculum in September, which reflects state and national standards. This document provides an overall district technology philosophy, as well as expected academic outcomes by grade level.

Enhancing the learning experience through technological applications is a district priority. Teaching staff and students to use technology well for instructional purposes is part of the process.

- The district received technology grants of \$260,000 for laptop computers for teachers through the state's Teacher Technology Initiative.
- The district received additional technology grants of \$48,160.
- The district replaced 450 of our 1000 computers, of which 100 middle and high school computers were paid for with bond funds

- Fifteen summer technology courses provided training for over 50 staff members. This was a follow-up to the 73 technology classes provided to 325 staff members over the two previous summers.
- Two after-school technology workshops for staff members were offered each Wednesday from January through March.
- Summer classes provided technology training to 60 K–6 students.
- Piloted by Glencairn Elementary School and the Alternative High School in 1999-2000, an interactive academic collaboration with Dover Combined Farm School in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa was expanded to include MacDonald Middle School and the high school.



- Elementary students regularly use video cameras to cablecast news programs throughout their buildings.
- The Web site was revamped into a definitive communication tool for parents, staff and the community by Shannon Degan, Web Master. The Web Master position was added this year.
- Every school in the district has a Web site.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY & LIFE SKILLS

This involves accessing information and evaluating it, weighing evidence, drawing conclusions, solving problems, resolving conflicts, making sound decisions, and considering the viewpoints of others.

- Part of an overall community effort to build strengths and values, the Asset Team is taking a comprehensive approach to enhancing the assets that all K–12 students possess. The Asset Team is comprised of students, parents, staff, the city of East Lansing, and works in cooperation with Michigan State University's Outreach Partnership.
- Teachers are continuing to incorporate Internet use in the classroom and as a tool to teach students to evaluate sources of information.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

This is about making sound financial decisions that support student achievement and reflect an ongoing investment in our school community. Some major activities so far:

- The successful passage of a \$66,080,000 bond proposal to renovate MacDonald Middle School and the high school while relocating the Alternative High School, Administrative Offices, and Service Center, and build a new pool at the high school.
- A \$12 million reduction of the \$66 million bond issue's overall interest costs through a deliberate delay in the sale of the bonds in November 2000 and favorable interest rates.
- Securing additional sources of revenue through grants. Total General Fund grants expenditures for 2000-01 totalled \$907,178.

BUILDING & ENHANCING COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS

This involves having effective methods to get information from and to parents and the rest of the community, developing activities to encourage community interaction, and enhancing relationships among parents, students, and teachers. Some examples:

- Community participation on the middle and high school design teams, and broader community input about building usage and preferences are ensuring that current and future academic needs will be met.
- The decision to realign the K-6 buildings was based upon community recommendations. Over 150 volunteers spent over 2,000 hours analyzing an array of information and materials before a recommendation was made.
- Community input was vital last year to decisions about curriculum change.
- Our new Web Master
- Each building's individual Web site allowed parents and the community quick Internet access to school information and student activities.

BUILDING-LEVEL DECISION MAKING

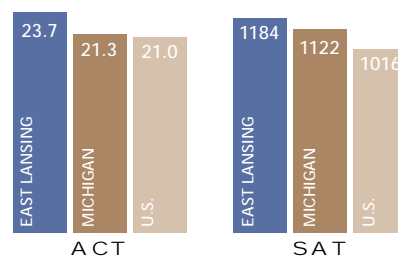
Most decisions are made at the building level. The prevailing management style is to make consensus decisions that respect the expertise of all staff. Parents and community members are invited to participate in making major building and district decisions, and hundreds of volunteers serve on committees to do this.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is a high priority in the district, driven by student performance and designed to meet needs the staff identify. Areas of special emphasis initiated in the last year and which will continue throughout 2001-02 include asset building, effective use of technology in the classroom, mathematics instruction, reading and writing instruction, quality schools, conflict resolution, and implementing the new science curriculum.

HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Teacher observation, teacher-made tests, comparison to benchmarks, standards and outcomes, and standardized state and national tests including the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) evaluate student learning. The graphs show our students' consistently high achievement on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), American College Test (ACT), and Advanced Placement (AP) tests over the last three academic years.



AP Exams

Number of students taking exams 130
 Number of exams taken 236
 Number of areas tested 17
 Scores of 3, 4, or 5 204

Retention/Dropout Rates

CLASS OF:	2003	2002	2001	2000	TOTAL
Enrollment, fall 2000	315	281	279		
Graduates, Class of 2000				295	1,170
Unaccounted students	5	3	7	0	15
2000 Retention rate (%)	98.4	98.9	97.5	100.0	98.7
2000 Dropout rate (%)	1.6	1.1	2.5	0.0	1.3

MEAP Test Results

		2000-2001		1999-2000	
		EAST LANSING	MICH.	EAST LANSING	MICH.
MATHEMATICS	4	85.5	72.3	81.7	74.8
	7	84.2	62.8	84.2	62.8
	*11	n/a	n/a	96.5	62.2
READING	4	75.9	60.4	70.1	58.2
	7	77.8	57.9	68.0	48.4
	*11	n/a	n/a	93.8	66.4
SCIENCE	5	60.7	41.6	62.1	43.6
	8	31.5	19.7	42.2	24.2
	*11	n/a	n/a	85.6	48.9
WRITING	5	64.2	61.1	75.3	67.8
	8	83.3	67.0	83.1	66.8
	*11	n/a	n/a	82.1	50.7
SOCIAL STUDIES	5	6.6	1.2	8.3	2.2
	8	17.4	5.9	23.1	6.1
	11	n/a	n/a	74.3	23.7

11th grade MEAP scores were not available at the time of printing.



MEAP TEST RESULTS

Each year students in the fourth and seventh grades take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) tests in mathematics and reading while fifth- and eighth-grade students take the science, social studies, and writing tests. High school students in grade 11 are tested in all five areas.

The results in the table (*see table, inside*) indicate the percentage of students in the district who achieved essential skills as defined by the state.

In compliance with recent changes in the State Code for Michigan, the East Lansing Public Schools has enacted the Iowa Test of Basic Skills for first through eighth grade students. This is a standardized achievement test widely used throughout the nation. Comparative results from the April test were not available for posting in this report.

RETENTION & DROPOUT RATES

The district's retention/graduation rate reflects the percentage of students who graduate from high school in four years. Our dropout rate reflects the percentage of students who left our high school this year and are not, to our knowledge, enrolled in any other school. East Lansing's dropout rate may reflect some students who return to their country of origin and who do not continue in high school. (*See table inside at top.*)

SPECIALIZED SCHOOLS

Career Center

The Capital Area Career Center at Ingham Intermediate School District provides vocational and technical education for youth and adults for a full or half day. In 2000–01, 18 East Lansing students attended. In the previous two years, 20 and 14 students attended.

Special Education

The district has 327 special education students who make up about 9% of the school population. The district is committed to providing education for them in the least restrictive environment that meets their needs. Most of

them attend regular or special classes in neighborhood schools. However, a few attend the following specialized schools. The legal authority for placement in a special education program is an Individual Educational Planning Team. All the programs below are operated by Ingham Intermediate School District.

Heartwood School and Beekman Center. These schools are for students with severe physical or mental challenges and those who may need employment training. During the 2000–01 school year, 5 ELPS students attended Heartwood, while 10 students attended each of the previous two years. Two East Lansing students attended Beekman Center for the last four years.

Pre-Primary Home Teaching. This program is for infants, toddlers and preschoolers who have special education needs. Seven East Lansing children were enrolled in 2000–01, while eight and two were enrolled each of the previous two years.

Secondary Learning Center. This program provided therapeutic services and education for students with severe behavioral disorders. Four East Lansing students attended during 2000–01, and each of the previous three years.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parent participation is very high at parent-teacher conferences held twice a year at all district schools.

	00–01	99–01	98–99
High School	70%	70%	70%
Middle School	70%	75%	75%
Elementary Schools	99%	99%	98%

Another avenue of participation for parents and community members without children is through our volunteer program. More than 2,200 volunteers, including almost 300 Michigan State University students, provided over 22,000 hours of assistance on school and district projects this year. Without the help of these talented and dedicated individuals, we could not maintain our high standards.

ACCREDITATION STATUS

For the fifth year, the Michigan Department of Education issued accreditation letters for all school buildings in the state based on MEAP test scores and standards contained in PA335, PA339, and PA25. East Lansing High School has been fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

FULL ACCREDITATION¹

from: North Central Association of Colleges and Schools

- East Lansing High School

SUMMARY ACCREDITATION²

from: Michigan Department of Education

- Donley Elementary
- Glencairn Elementary
- Spartan Village Elementary

INTERIM ACCREDITATION³

from: Michigan Department of Education

- Marble Elementary
- Pinecrest Elementary
- Red Cedar Elementary
- Whitehills Elementary
- MacDonald Middle School

CORE CURRICULUM & IMPLEMENTATION

The goal of education is to provide all learners with a solid foundation of skills, knowledge, and understandings that are necessary for their continual growth and success as students within the school setting and as adults in society.

The core curriculum of East Lansing Public Schools provides learning experiences in all areas of English Language Arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening), mathematics, science and social studies, and is supported by special areas: foreign languages, health, physical education, vocal and instrumental music, art, computer instruction, enrichment activities, as well as multicultural experiences and awareness opportunities, in addition to enrichment activities.

1. In the continual improvement cycle of Outcomes Accreditation

2. The highest accreditation: given to only a small percentage of schools

3. The second highest level of accreditation



from the superintendent

We finished last year with great enthusiasm for the future! We thank our students, staff, parents, members of the Board of Education, and the greater East Lansing community members for their continuing support of our school system, knowing that we have completed another great year but have even more exciting prospects on the horizon.

The successful bond election last September has positioned us well for literally and figuratively "building our future." During the past several months we have had Design Teams and hundreds of students, staff, and members of the community helping with the plans for the renovation projects at East Lansing High School and MacDonald Middle School. We will keep you informed of our plans through our Web site (www.elps.k12.mi.us), future issues of the district *Spotlight*, special community forums, and regularly scheduled Board of Education meetings.

We look forward to your comments on this annual report or any other aspect of our school district. While we certainly value personal interaction with you throughout the year, we know that regular mail, telephone calls, and e-mail are popular alternatives; please stay in touch!

Thomas R. Giblin
Superintendent of Schools

our mission

East Lansing Public Schools will lead all schools in challenging each student to his or her maximum.

In partnership with students, parents, and community, each day we will demonstrate our commitment to lead by continually:

- defining and promoting personal responsibility
- creating a safe, stimulating and productive learning environment
- taking pride in our successes and responsibility for our failures
- ensuring an effective, accountable, and caring staff who cultivate and contribute to learning

points of pride

- An international student population representing 43 countries
- An annual average of 13 National Merit Scholars
- Top high school in the state participating in the 2000-01 American Scholastic Mathematics Association Competition resulting in First Place certification
- A history of strong placement in the annual Michigan Mathematics Prize Competition, with ten students placing in the Top 1000, and three students placing in the Top 100
- One of only 88 national and six international high schools participating in the Virtual High School program, which allows qualifying students to partake in over 100 accredited Internet courses
- The East Lansing High School/Greater Lansing Symphony Orchestra Mentor Program and Concert is the only mentor program of its type in the state
- Thirty-five art, dance, music and theater programs offered at the high school, with eight offered at the middle school
- One of the state's top high school Debate Teams, claiming the Class "A" State Title five of the past 12 years
- Twenty-seven sports teams at the middle- and high-school levels
- The Capital Area Conference "All Sports" Award winners 24 of the last 26 years
- Forty-nine student clubs, organizations, societies, and intra-mural sports at the middle- and high-school levels
- The Full-Day Kindergarten completed its second year of operation, and was recognized early on as an example of Academic Excellence by the Michigan Education Association
- Internet access for all students and staff
- After-school mentoring and tutoring is available to students from all buildings
- Nationally recognized English-as-a-Second Language program