



## Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence

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August 18, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are please to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence (PACE Academy). The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Darah L. Griffin, Director of Achievement Support Services for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site ([www.pacek-8.org](http://www.pacek-8.org)). You may also review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.

To date, our school has not been given one of these labels, (Reward, Focus, or Priority).

At PACE, we have overcome many challenges throughout the years. In spite of these challenges, we continue to see the narrowing of our student's achievement scores as compared with all students across the state of Michigan. We continue to show growth in student achievement in Reading, Math, and Writing, as listed below in the data tables in the Annual Education Report. (AER).

- In the area of Reading, we had a 3% increase in 4<sup>th</sup> grade; 8% increase in 5<sup>th</sup> grade; 4% increase in 6<sup>th</sup> grade; and an 8% increase in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- In the area of Math, we had a 1% increase in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- In the area of Writing, we had a 5% increase in 4<sup>th</sup> grade and 6% increase in 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

In an effort to accelerate student achievement and close persistent gaps, the key initiatives being undertaken by PACE Academy are:

- Building a stronger, rigorous and viable curriculum aligned with the Common Core State Standards.
- Building the capacity of teachers in the area of Differentiated Instruction and Response to Intervention.
- Continue with Small Group Intervention and provide one – on – one instruction to the Bottom 30% of students.
- Provide sufficient instructional time for Math, Science and Social Studies, by extending the school day and providing time for teachers to conference with students in order to provide timely feedback and to modify instruction as needed.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

As a public school academy, PACE Academy provides education services to students who live anywhere within Michigan without any district boundaries. Parents must apply for admission to PACE Academy and provide proof of birth date, current grade placement, address and contact telephone numbers. If enrollment numbers are met, a waiting list is established and a lottery is held if needed.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The annual School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been submitted to the State and is posted on the school website at [www.pacek-8.org](http://www.pacek-8.org). The SIP is updated annually by a team of staff and parents who meet monthly to monitor progress and implementation.

3. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL.

A copy of the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Academic Center of Excellence (PACE Academy) core curriculum can be obtained by contacting the Director of Achievement Support Services at 248-569-1060. PACE Academy adheres to the State of Michigan established curriculum. Mathematics and English Language Arts have been moved to the Common Core State Standards.

4. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

The aggregate student achievement results for district achievement assessments (i.e.; Scantron Performance Series and Dynamic Indicators of Basic Literacy Skills (DIBELS) data can be obtained from the main office at PACE Academy. Student achievement data for MEAP are found in this report.

5. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent involvement is critical to the success of all PACE Academy students. The teaching staff completes Progress Reports for each student quarterly and sends them home to parents, who are then invited to attend quarterly Parent Teacher Conferences (PTC). Attendance at PTC averages approximately 85-90 % (around 640) parents per quarter. Parents are also invited to participate at monthly Board of Director and parent meetings.

At the Dr. Joseph F. Pollack Center of Excellence, we strive to provide all students with a superior educational experience that result in career success and commitment to community service.

We encourage you to visit our Academy to see the great things happening at PACE Academy!

Educationally yours,

*Darah L. Griffin*

Mrs. Darah L. Griffin  
Director of Achievement Support Services