



News Release

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Focusing on Student Data and Community Involvement Are Keys for Local Schools that are “Beating the Odds”

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There are real success stories in Michigan school buildings that are considered by some to have traditional barriers to academic achievement, the Michigan Department of Education reports.

Over 100 schools in Michigan are finding ways to overcome the identifiable risk factors to low student achievement, such as low economic status, race and ethnicity, or proficiency with the English language.

“These are schools that are doing remarkable things to help their students achieve, despite the odds being stacked against them,” said state Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) conducted two separate studies to identify schools that are “Beating the Odds.” One study identified 63 schools that are performing above their predicted levels, based on risk factors. The second study identified 72 schools that perform better than a comparison group of schools with similar demographics.

Of the 135 schools identified, 20 schools including 18 elementary, one middle and one high school “beat the odds” in light of both studies’ criteria and were interviewed and profiled for this release. Six additional schools met both criteria, however were not profiled because they are gifted and talented magnet schools.

The schools represent districts from across the spectrum of the state, from large urban districts, to suburban, and remote rural schools.

Many of the “Beating the Odds” schools said that their use of student testing data to inform instruction, and having strong community support for high standards and accountability as the key reasons behind their success.

“But this ultimately is about what teachers are doing with their students in the classroom and principal leadership,” Flanagan said.

Flanagan said that every school district in Michigan should look at the schools on the lists and find one that most closely resembles the makeup of schools in their district and find out what they can do to replicate that model.

“If I were a local superintendent again, I would contact that school beating the odds and find out what they are doing and put those things in place in my schools,” Flanagan said.

“There’s been a lot of public focus over the past year on schools that struggle,” he added. “A lot of schools are doing great things and we want to highlight them.”

This is the first-time this type of meaningful information has been released and is part of the Michigan Department of Education’s continuing commitment to bring “Light of Day” to school data and information to help improve elementary and secondary education.

The public can go to <http://www.michigan.gov/beatingtheodds> to find more information on schools that are Beating the Odds including a PowerPoint profiling the 20 schools identified in both studies.

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BEATING THE ODDS SCHOOLS IN MICHIGAN

District Name	School Name	Identified in Study 1	Identified in Study 2	Identified in Both Studies
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Angell School	x	x	x
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Burns Park Elementary School	x		
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Community High School		x	
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Eberwhite School	x		
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Logan Elementary School	x		
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Martin Luther King Elem. School	x		
Ann Arbor Public Schools	Tappan Middle School	x		
Benzie County Central Schools	Benzie Central Sr. High School	x	x	x
Benzie County Central Schools	Crystal Lake Elementary School	x		
Benzie County Central Schools	Lake Ann Elementary School	x		
Big Rapids Public Schools	Riverview Elementary School	x		
Birmingham City School District	Ernest W. Seaholm High School		x	
Byron Center Public Schools	Brown Elementary School	x	x	x
Byron Center Public Schools	Countryside Elementary School		x	
Cadillac Area Public Schools	Franklin Elementary School	x		
Cadillac Area Public Schools	Kenwood Elementary School	x		
Caledonia Community Schools	Dutton Elementary School		x	
Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools	Gladys Dillon Elementary School	x	x	x

Cass City Public Schools	Cass City High School		x	
Cass City Public Schools	Cass City Middle School	x	x	x
Chippewa Hills School District	Weidman Elementary School	x		
Cole Academy - Lansing	Cole Academy		x	
Columbia School District	Norman Miller Elementary School		x	
Crestwood School District	Kinloch Elementary School		x	
Croswell-Lexington Community Schools	Meyer Elementary School	x	x	x
Dearborn City School District	Iris Becker Elementary School	x		
Dearborn City School District	Lowrey Elementary School	x		
Deckerville Community School District	Deckerville Elementary School	x	x	x
Detroit City School District	Marshall, Thurgood Elementary School	x		
Detroit City School District	Pasteur Elementary School	x	x	x
Detroit City School District	Vernor Elementary School	x		
Detroit Service Learning Academy	Detroit Service Learning Academy	x	x	x
Fairview Area School District	Fairview Elementary School	x		
Farmington Public School District	Highmeadow Common Campus School		x	
Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools	Frankfort Elementary School	x	x	x
Fremont Public School District	Pathfinder Elementary School	x		
Gaylord Community Schools	North Ohio Elementary School		x	
Glen Lake Community Schools	Glen Lake Elementary School	x	x	x
Godwin Heights Public Schools	North Godwin Elementary School	x	x	x
Grand Haven Area Public Schools	Mary A. White School	x		
Grand Rapids Public Schools	Blandford Nature Center	x	x	x
Grand Rapids Public Schools	City Middle/High School	x	x	x
Grand Rapids Public Schools	John Ball Park Zoo School	x		
Grand Rapids Public Schools	Southwest Community Campus School		x	
Grandville Public Schools	Grandville South Elementary School		x	
Grandville Public Schools	Grandville West Elementary School	x	x	x
Hamilton Community Schools	Bentheim Elementary School		x	
Hamilton Community Schools	Hamilton Middle School		x	
Harbor Beach Community Schools	Harbor Beach Middle School		x	
Hastings Area School District	Star Elementary School		x	
Hillman Community Schools	Hillman Elementary School	x		
Holland City School District	Holland High School		x	
Houghton Lake Community Schools	Houghton Lake Middle School	x		
Houghton-Portage Township Schools	Houghton Central High School		x	
Hudsonville Public School District	Jamestown Elementary School		x	
Kelloggsville Public Schools	East Kelloggsville School	x		
Kentwood Public Schools	Discovery Elementary	x	x	x
Kentwood Public Schools	Glenwood Elementary	x	x	x
Kentwood Public Schools	Southwood Elementary	x		

Kentwood Public Schools	Townline Elementary	x		
Kingsley Area Schools	Kingsley Area Elementary School		x	
Lansing Public School District	Kendon School		x	
Lansing Public School District	Mt. Hope School	x	x	x
Leland Public School District	Leland Public School		x	
Livonia Public Schools	Webster Elementary School	x	x	x
Marlette Community Schools	Marlette Elementary	x		
Marquette Area Public Schools	Sandy Knoll School		x	
Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center Academy	Martin Luther King, Jr. Education Center Academy	x	x	x
Marysville Public Schools	Gardens Elementary School		x	
Mason Public Schools (Ingham)	Steele Street Elementary School		x	
McBain Rural Agricultural Schools	McBain Elementary School	x		
Mendon Community School District	Mendon Middle/High School		x	
Menominee Area Public Schools	Lincoln Elementary School		x	
Midland Academy of Advanced & Creative Studies	Midland Academy of Advanced & Creative Studies		x	
Morenci Area Schools	Morenci Area High School		x	
Mt. Pleasant City School District	Mt. Pleasant Senior High School		x	
New Buffalo Area Schools	New Buffalo Middle School		x	
North Central Area Schools	North Central Elementary School	x		
North Muskegon Public Schools	North Muskegon High School		x	
Northview Public School District	North Oakview Elementary School		x	
Novi Community School District	Deerfield Elementary School		x	
Oakridge Public Schools	Oakridge Lower Elementary School		x	
Onaway Area Community School District	Onaway Elementary School	x		
Ovid-Elsie Area Schools	Leonard Elementary School		x	
Pinconning Area Schools	Pinconning Central Elementary School	x		
Plymouth-Canton Community Schools	Miller Elementary School	x	x	x
Public Schools of Calumet	C.L.K. Elementary School	x		
Riverview Community School District	Memorial Elementary School		x	
Rochester Community School District	Brewster Elementary School		x	
Rochester Community School District	McGregor Elementary School	x		
Rochester Community School District	Rochester Adams High School		x	
Rockford Public Schools	Rockford Spanish Immersion		x	
Saginaw City School District	Handley School	x	x	x
Saginaw City School District	Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy	x		
Saginaw Preparatory Academy	Saginaw Preparatory Academy	x	x	x
Saginaw Township Community Schools	Hemmeter Elementary School		x	
Shelby Public Schools	New Era Elementary School	x		
Shelby Public Schools	Shelby High School		x	

Shepherd Public School District	Winn Elementary School	x	x	x
South Lyon Community Schools	Frank E. Bartlett School	x		
Spring Lake Public Schools	Jeffers Elementary School	x	x	x
St. Joseph Public Schools	Clarke School		x	
Stanton Township Public Schools	E.B. Holman Elementary School	x	x	x
Star International Academy	Star International Academy	x		
Tawas Area Schools	Clara B. Bolen Elementary School		x	
Three Rivers Community Schools	Andrews Elementary School		x	
Traverse City Area Public Schools	Central Grade School		x	
West Ottawa Public School District	Lakeshore Elementary School	x		
Whittemore-Prescott Area Schools	Whittemore-Prescott Elementary School	x		