



AAPS- Dicken Elementary

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Michael Madison

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August 21, 2012

Dear Dicken Parents and Guardians,

Earlier this month, you received a letter sharing information regarding the Michigan Department of Education's new school designations. As you know, our school has been identified as a "Focus" school based on the achievement gap between the top and bottom 30% of student scores on the Michigan Educational Assessment (MEAP) / Michigan Merit Exam (MME) tests. While our school met the standards for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), this gap in achievement has resulted in the designation of "Focus" school.

Ann Arbor Public Schools has been addressing the disparities in achievement among students for many years. We have taken the lead in acknowledging and implementing educational programs that have had positive impacts on the achievement gap. AAPS has narrowed the gap but we certainly acknowledge that our work must continue. Achievement for all students continues to rise each year, as teachers and administrators analyze and respond to student data to drive personalized learning for all students.

This past year, two important initiatives were added to the AAPS Strategic Plan: *The Achievement Gap Elimination Plan* and *The Discipline Gap: The Gateway To Eliminating The Achievement Gap*. These plans are rich in initiatives and actions and will have a positive impact on student achievement.

Because Dicken has been identified as a "Focus" school, the District is required to offer you the opportunity to transfer your child to another "non-Focus" school that has made AYP in the 2011-2012 school year. A list of these options is attached along with a Transfer Request Form. If we receive more applications than can be accommodated, priority will be given to students of greatest academic and/or economic need. If you elect to apply for a transfer, completed forms must be received in the Office of Student Accounting and Research Services by September 4, 2012.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss the options, please call me.

Sincerely,

Michael Madison, Principal
Dicken Elementary School

Attachment (2)



Transfer Options

A list of available schools that have made Adequate Yearly Progress in the 2011-2012 school year and that are not identified as Priority or Focus schools is listed below.

Ann Arbor Public Schools

Scarlett Middle School

Other Public Schools in Washtenaw County

Lincoln Consolidated Schools

Childs Elementary (Grades 1-5)

Brick Elementary (Grades 1-5)

Model Elementary and Early Childhood Center (K only)

Lincoln Middle School

Whitmore Lake Public Schools

Whitmore Lake Middle School

Whitmore Lake High School

Willow Run Community Schools

Willow Run Primary Learning Center (Grades K-1)

Ypsilanti Public Schools

Adams Elementary (limited availability)