



## **University Yes Academy Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

January 30, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for University YES Academy (UYA). 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 the chief academic officer for the New Paradigm for Education (NPFE) network, Kimberly Bland.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following <https://goo.gl/MIhHMt> or you may review a copy in the main office at our school location.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward school. 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 percent of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5 percent of all school in the state. Currently, UYA has not received one of these labels.

### **Current Challenges**

New Paradigm for Education is UYA's new Charter Management Organization. New Paradigm for Education provides a rigorous college-focus learning environment by utilizing a scientifically research-based curriculum, high expectations, and a safe and nurturing school campus. Our goal is to bring stability so that we can lay a strong foundation to cultivate high student achievement.

UYA is currently listed as a priority school and over the past two years, our school has seen challenges with developing a strong math and literacy program for our students. Our goal is to bring stability to both programs so that we can lay a strong foundation to cultivate high student achievement.

### **Key Initiatives to Foster Student Achievement**

We are currently focusing on the following initiatives to accelerate student achievement:

- Building a Strong Literacy Block through implementation of Success For All literacy curriculum
- Creating a Strong Math Block through the implementation of Eureka Math curriculum
- Building Teacher Capacity through support of curriculum coaches
- Effective Curriculum Alignment and Pacing through resources provided by New Paradigm



- Data Analysis and Reteach Planning support through our partnership with the Achievement Network

State law requires that we also report additional information:

### **1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

UYA operates as an open enrollment charter school under New Paradigm for Education, our charter school management company. Students residing in the state of Michigan can apply to our school at any time during the school year. All interested families can contact the registrar's office to obtain an application for grades kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Applications can also be downloaded from the district website using the following link: [Enrollment Application](#) When grades have reached enrollment capacity, students are placed on a waiting list.

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

Goals have been set for each core subject in our school improvement plan. The following outlines those goals:

- All UYA students will demonstrate reading proficiency by having a deep understanding of Common Core Standards.
- All UYA students will demonstrate Math proficiency by having a deep understanding of Common Core Standards.
- All UYA students will demonstrate Science proficiency by integrating reading, writing, and discussion across all subject areas to provide cohesive instruction.
- All UYA students will demonstrate Writing proficiency by integrating reading, writing, and discussion across all subject areas to provide cohesive instruction.
- All UYA students will demonstrate Social Studies proficiency by integrating reading, writing, and discussion across all subject areas to provide cohesive instruction.

### **3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL**

University YES Academy exists to prepare students entrusted to our care for a future as compassionate and caring global citizens and successful lifelong learners. Academic development is achieved in a dignified and supportive environment that incorporates diversity, family, staff, and community partnerships, in pursuit of educational excellence.

Our school environment is one in which all learners grow, thrive and succeed beyond measure. We value, appreciate and accommodate diversity. We support our students because they are more than capable, and we fully believe in them. Our teaching practices are both reflective of and responsive to the needs of ALL our students. Our families are recognized as



partners in the learning process. We embrace communication between students, parents, teachers, support staff and the community as we work to create the ultimate learning experiences for all children.

### **BELIEFS**

At the University YES Academy, we:

1. Believe that a culture of achievement promotes high student achievement.
2. Believe that students who are empowered with prior knowledge of assessment goals will be better prepared to take an active role in their own achievement.
3. Believe that high expectations promote excellence.
4. Believe that learning is optimized when parents and professionals work in partnership.
5. Believe that children have individual learning styles and intelligences that must be addressed in order for everyone to achieve.
6. Believe that staff members must be aware of state curriculum standards and benchmarks to maximize a student's achievement of goals.
7. Believe that the use of best practices reflecting current educational research increases our standard of quality.
8. Believe that all staff members are models for our students.
9. Believe that staff and students are entitled to learn and work in a clean and safe environment.  
Believe that a cooperative learning environment educates, empowers and enlightens.

#### **4. 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**

### **Curriculum Overview**

University YES Academy came under new management during the 2016-17 school year and due to this, we are unaware of the curricular programs utilized during the 2015-16 school year. The current and new curricular programs for UYA were chosen and are aligned to the Common Core standards which are adopted by the state of Michigan. Websites containing information about the programs utilized by our school are listed below:

### **Curricular Programs**

#### ***Literacy***

In many ways, the achievement gap can be equated to a gap in vocabulary and literacy development. Students will receive 60 minutes of literacy instruction and 60 minutes of writing instruction every day. This sacred time will ensure that students are given the opportunity to immerse themselves in all aspects of literacy and that educators have enough time to create various engagement opportunities for our scholars.



**NEW PARADIGM  
FOR EDUCATION**

<b>Curricular Program</b>	<b>Resources in program used for:</b>
Success for All <a href="http://www.successforall.org">www.successforall.org</a>	Oral Language and Vocabulary Development, Phonics, Fluency, Comprehension Skill Development, Written Expression
Step Up to Writing <a href="http://www.voyagersopris.com">www.voyagersopris.com</a>	Foundational Writing Skills, Vocabulary Acquisition, Speaking and Listening, Development in Writing Purpose
Write Source <a href="http://www.hmhco.com">www.hmhco.com</a>	Grammar, Six Traits, Usage and Mechanics

***Math***

At UYA we believe in creating a strong math foundation by building strong number sense with our students during a 60-minute math block. Rather than increasing the pace and covering standards from higher grade levels, we focus on the depth of our instruction rather than the breadth. This strong foundation will prevent future gaps and equip our students with the necessary tools to be critical thinkers and problem solvers.

<b>Curricular Program</b>	<b>Resources in program used for:</b>
Eureka Math <a href="http://greatminds.net">http://greatminds.net</a>	Measurement, Geometry, Numbers and Operations, Algebraic Thinking, Data Analysis and Probability, Problem Solving

***Science and Social Studies***

UYA offers interdisciplinary study of literacy and math skills through science and social studies. Our goal is for students to study the world through a focus on world events, research, and experimentation. Each block will occur daily for 60 minutes.

<b>Subject and Curricular Program</b>	<b>Resources in program used for:</b>
Social Studies – MC3 Rubicon <a href="http://www.resa.net/curriculum/curriculum/socialstudies">www.resa.net/curriculum/curriculum/socialstudies</a>	Civics and Government, Economics, US History and Geography, World History and Geography
Science – STEMscopes <a href="http://www.acceleratelearning.com">www.acceleratelearning.com</a>	Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space, Force, Matter & Energy, Motion & Energy, Organisms and Environments, Physics

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



**NEW PARADIGM  
FOR EDUCATION**

Our overall student achievement data for the 2014-15 school term and 2015-16 school term is listed below with a focus on reporting from the Student Growth Summary Report for the NWEA MAP Test:

<b>UYA Reading Performance on the NWEA MAP</b>		
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Percent of Students Meeting RIT Growth Projection by Spring 2015</b>	<b>Percent of Students Meeting RIT Growth Projection by Spring 2016</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>		35%
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	70%	31%
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	63%	48%
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	51%	28%
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	63%	30%
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	41%	30%
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	31%	48%
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	54%	59%
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	47%	50%

<b>UYA Math Performance on the NWEA MAP</b>		
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Percent of Students Meeting RIT Growth Projection by Spring 2015</b>	<b>Percent of Students Meeting RIT Growth Projection by Spring 2016</b>
<b>Kindergarten</b>		40%
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	90%	33%
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	82%	52%
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	55%	16%
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	30%	36%
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	26%	30%
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	35%	49%
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	57%	41%
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	61%	68%

**UYA Science Performance on the NWEA MAP**



**NEW PARADIGM  
FOR EDUCATION**

<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Percent of Students Meeting RIT Growth Projection by Spring 2015</b>	<b>Percent of Students Meeting RIT Growth Projection by Spring 2016</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	33%	38%
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	50%	37%
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	19%	33%
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	45%	14%
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	66%	24%
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	53%	28%

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

Unfortunately, over the past two years historical data on UYA's parent/teacher conference attendance is not available. To ensure we are collecting data to best support strategies utilized to make parent/student connections, we are currently collecting data moving forward and reviewing the data on a school level. We look forward to reporting these numbers for the 2016-17 school term.

The students, families and faculty members at University YES Academy are on a journey together to make our school a great place to teach, learn and grow. We have seen a great deal of success this year with our initiatives put in place to lay a foundation for strong academic achievement and for our students to develop strong social skills as they navigate their education with others. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or feedback to help our school become one of the strongest learning institutions in Detroit.

Sincerely,

Ralph Bland

Superintendent

University YES Academy