



Executive Summary

Arthur Vandenberg Elementary School

South Redford School District

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Vandenberg Elementary School is a public school that services students at the kindergarten to fifth grade levels. Our school is located in Wayne County in an urban setting just west of the City of Detroit. We currently have 321 students enrolled in our building. We have a diverse student body including 84.4% African American, 9.3% Caucasian, 4.7% Hispanic or Latino and 1.6% Other. We have a staff of 16 teachers. We are a schoolwide Title One building with 75.3% of our student receiving free and/or reduced lunch. Our school has a high mobility rate with only 44% of our currently fifth grade having stayed with us since Kindergarten.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Vandenberg Elementary is governed by our schools mission which states " Vandenberg Elementary will be a kind, safe and productive school where all children can learn and grow". We systematically as a school review our mission, vision, values and beliefs. We adjust and make changes to these documents as we learn more about ourselves as teachers, our community and our students. Our school offers many programs to students before, during and after school. We are actively involved in the Wayne County RESA Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support program and also are implementing a new component dealing with Peer to Peer aggression issues. At Vandenberg, we set high expectations for our students and they rise to meet those expectations.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

At our school and across our district, we have been working very hard to align all our curriculum with the new common core expectations. We have developed common district quarterly assessments across all grade levels in reading and math. Over the past three years, we have focused on implementing common workshop time in reading. We have been very successful in raising our fluency rates across the grade levels as a result of workshop as assessed by AIMS Web Benchmark testing. Over the next three years, we plan to continue our focus on using reading workshop, but now will add another layer and focus more on comprehension and strategies to help students better understand what they read. We also plan to implement a new math workshop over the next three years. This workshop will be targeted around the common core requirements at every grade level. MEAP data is not showing a consistent trend overall, but strand analysis shows common areas for improvement.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Our school takes great pride in the community connections we make with our students. We have partnerships with the following businesses/organizations in our community: Detroit Diesel, Hungry Howie's Pizza, SRFEE, Redford Observer Newspaper, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln Behavioral Services, Kroger Food, Redford Township Library, Redford Township, Redford Township Police and Fire Department, Detroit Tigers, Human Society, Detroit Institute of Arts, The Henry Ford, Michigan Youth Arts/Comcast, Detroit Puppet Theatre/Quicken Loans, Howell Nature Center, Luella's Food Pantry and Kensington Metro Learning Labs.

Our school also provides a variety of enrichment and alternate learning opportunities such as: Music Concerts, Choir Performances, The Vandenberg Step Team, Vandenberg Student Leadership Team, Camp Storer Outdoor Education Program, Before and After School Enrichment Reading and Math Programs, IXL Math Online, RAZ Kids Online, Accelerated Reading Program, and Beyond the Bell After School Enrichment Program (Spanish Foreign Language Classes, Art Classes, Soccer and Cheer Squad).