

# NICE Community School District

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Dear Parents and Members of the Community:

It is with enthusiasm and pride that we publish our *Annual Education Report* to the Community, covering the 2010-11 school year.

The *Annual Education Report* includes links to the information required by Michigan's PA 25 and the federal No Child Left Behind Act. The report also includes student performance information, School Improvement goals and objectives, and a narrative about what makes the NICE Community School District a great place to learn.

Data required to be included in the *Annual Education Report* is available for you to review electronically by visiting [nice.k12.mi.us](http://nice.k12.mi.us). Copies are also located in each school office and the Central Office. Please also visit [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org) to access Michigan's school information website that allows users to look up test scores, enrollment information, school "report cards," and additional information pertaining to the NICE Community School District.

In the following pages please find information outlining the required state and federal components of our *Annual Education Report*, as well as additional "points of pride." Please contact the Superintendent's Office if you have any questions.

Educationally,

*Michael Haynes*

Michael Haynes, Superintendent  
NICE Community School District

## **The Annual Education Report contains the following federally-required information:**

### Student Assessment Data

*Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and Michigan's Alternative Assessment Program (MI-Access)*

Data presents achievement data for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 (MEAP), for grade 11 (MME) and science for grades 5 and 8 compared to targets for all students as well as subgroups of students; Provides achievement data for English language arts, mathematics and science for students with significant disabilities (MI-Access) compared to targets for all students with disabilities as well as subgroups of students; Helps readers understand achievement progress within schools and compare these to district and state achievement.

### Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Provides information from assessments, graduation and attendance rates and AYP status in relation to four criteria: (1) the district must test 95% of students in total and in each required subgroup, (2) the district must attain achievement goals in English language arts and mathematics or reduce the percentage of students in the non-proficient category of achievement significantly ("safe harbor") annually, (3) the district must attain achievement goals for each subgroup that has at least 30 students in the group, and (4) the district must meet or exceed the other academic indicators set by the state: graduation rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and middle schools.

*For 2010-2011, the NICE Community School District made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics.*

For 2010-2011, the NICE Community School District made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. The Aspen Ridge School and Westwood High School also made AYP in 2010; however, the Ishpeming-Negaunee-NICE Community Education Program did not make AYP.

The Ishpeming-Negaunee-NICE Community Education Program (INN) is an alternative high school that enrolls students from three neighboring school districts: Ishpeming Public Schools, Negaunee Public Schools and the NICE Community School District. The AYP status for the INN program resulted when the school did not meet the expected state graduation rate of 80%. The school's administration and staff are aware of the issue and working with the intermediate school district to establish strategies to prevent this in the future.

### Teacher Quality Data

Report identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels and the percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes.

*For 2010-11, 100% of the teachers were highly qualified according to No Child Left Behind requirements.*

### NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

Report provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8. This cannot be compared with MEAP results for grades 4 and 8 because there are no national standards.

## **Below is additional state-required information:**

### Pupil Assignment

In 2010-11 the NICE Community School District was comprised of two schools: The Aspen Ridge School, a K-8 building and Westwood High School.

The district is also in consortium with Ishpeming and Negaunee to provide an alternative high school program via the Ishpeming-Negaunee-NICE Community Education Program. Additional programs available to students of the NICE Community School District are the Westwood Early College program and the Patriot Online Academy.

### Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

The District 3-5 year plan for continuing school improvement is reviewed and revised on a yearly basis by the district school improvement team. The district's priority is to maintain and strengthen our tradition of excellence in academic programming and instruction.

The NICE Community School District shall continue to deliver high quality educational programming and services while being ever-mindful of declining enrollment trends and the financial impact that results. In addition, building level teams meet on a regular basis to devise and implement plans that result in optimum learning for all students in their charge.

### Specialized Schools

As per the state definition, the NICE Community School District has *no* specialized schools. It does, however, offer shared-time programming with neighboring school districts in the area of Career and Technical Education as well as the following specialized programs:

- The Ishpeming-Negaunee-NICE Community Schools Program (alternative high school)
- Westwood Early College
- Patriot Online Academy

### Core Curriculum

The core curriculum is the basic learning program in curricular areas for all students. The core curriculum for each content area is based upon the Michigan Curriculum Framework. The core curriculum defines expected student outcomes based on the goals and objectives developed by the school district. These also reflect the State of Michigan's core curriculum goals and objectives. In order to facilitate ongoing alignment with the Michigan Curriculum Framework, individual buildings evaluate and review each curricular area on a rotating basis.

### Aggregate Student Achievement of Local/Nationally-Normed Test

The data located at [www.mischooldata.org/](http://www.mischooldata.org/) and on the district website represents the aggregate performance for students in the district. The NICE Community School District uses a variety of measures to determine student success and mastery of the curriculum that is taught. The assessment map on the following page outlines the manner in which student achievement data is collected and turned into information that is used at all levels.

<p><b>Kindergarten</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ DIBELS</li> </ul> <p><b>1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ MLPP</li> <li>▪ DIBELS</li> </ul> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ MLPP</li> <li>▪ DIBELS</li> </ul> <p><b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEAP Reading, Writing and Math</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ MLPP</li> <li>▪ DIBELS</li> </ul> <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEAP Reading, Writing and Math</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ Scholastic Reading Inventory</li> <li>▪ STAR</li> </ul>	<p><b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEAP Reading, Writing and Math</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ Scholastic Reading Inventory</li> <li>▪ STAR</li> </ul> <p><b>6<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEAP Reading, Writing, Math and Social Studies</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ STAR</li> </ul> <p><b>7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEAP Reading, Writing and Math</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ STAR</li> </ul> <p><b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEAP Reading, Writing, Math and Science</li> <li>▪ Gates-MacGinitie Reading Comprehension</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ STAR</li> </ul>	<p><b>9<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MEAP Social Studies</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> </ul> <p><b>10<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Locally-Developed Content Area Assessments</li> </ul> <p><b>11<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Michigan Merit Exam Reading, Writing, Math, Social Studies and Science</li> <li>▪ ACT</li> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> <li>▪ ASVAB Military Aptitude Test</li> </ul> <p><b>12<sup>th</sup> Grade</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LDCAA</li> </ul>
<p><i><b>KEY</b></i></p> <p><i>Locally-Developed Content Area Assessments: LDCAA</i></p> <p><i>Standardized Test for Achievement in Reading: STAR</i></p> <p><i>Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills: DIBELS</i></p> <p><i>Michigan Education Assessment Program: MEAP</i></p> <p><i>Michigan Literacy Progress Profile: MLPP</i></p>		

Parent/Teacher Conference Participation

<b>Building</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
Aspen Ridge (K-5)	93%	94%	95%	94%	78%
Aspen Ridge (6-8)	51%	60%	56%	46%	
Westwood High School	39%	37%	33%	26%	26%

*The K-8 participation level is a combined percentage between grades K-5 and 6-8 which have previously been reported separately.*

Parent Involvement Policy, Parent Right-to-Know Regarding Teacher Quality

Parents are integral partners in the education of children. The NICE Community School District welcomes the presence and participation of parents and volunteers through its award-winning Family Resource Institute and through its many volunteer and committee opportunities. A parent involvement policy exists as a part of the district's Title I Plan and may be reviewed at any time by contacting the school.

## High School Data

- Twenty-two (22) students enrolled in four (4) postsecondary courses in 2010-11.
- One (1) college equivalent course (AP/IB) was provided to students.
- One (1) student enrolled in a college equivalent course (AP/IB) in 2010-11.
- Twenty-three (23) students received a score leading to college credit in 2010-11.

## Education YES Report Card Grades and/or NCA Status

Building	2007	2008	2009	2010
Aspen Ridge Elementary School	A	A	A	A
Aspen Ridge Middle School	A	A	A	
Westwood High School	B	TBD	A	A

The district became accredited through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) and AdvancED in 2010.

## Pupil Retention Rates

Pupil dropout rate refers to the percentage of high school students who leave school in any one year with no records forwarded to another learning institution. In 2010-11, no students left Westwood High School without enrolling in another school.

## **Additional "Points of Pride" in 2010-11:**

- ✓ In 2010, the NICE Community School District implemented several new initiatives in order to meet the needs of all students:

### Project-Based Learning/New Tech High School

In 2010, Westwood High School implemented integrated project-based learning (PBL) in the 9<sup>th</sup> Grade in order to bring relevance to curriculum standards. Integrated, project-based courses were established following the instructional framework provided by the New Tech Network model. New Tech schools support a systemic response to advance the national economic imperative and increase the number of graduates in the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). NICE, along with five (5) other schools in Michigan, will participate in a statewide system, utilizing the New Tech Network approach as a catalyst for a state to transform teaching and learning.

### Patriot Online Academy

In 2010-11, the district launched the Patriot Online Academy (POA). The POA enables educational programs to be tailored to meet the needs of all students, whether by providing flexible scheduling and acceleration and/or remediation options or enabling students not currently enrolled to access district programs. The district utilized a seat time waiver provided by the Department of Education to enable students to take up to 100% of their courses online. Approximately 30 students enrolled in online classes through the POA in 2010.



### Postsecondary Opportunities

In 2010, the district was approved by the Department of Education to provide an early college option for students. Through a partnership with Bay de Noc Community College the district has established a program of study that leads to significant college credit

attainment—up to an associate’s degree—while in high school. In addition, NICE established an articulation agreement with Finlandia University to provide Westwood High School students earning an ‘A’ in the school’s Algebra III/Trigonometry with 4 credits for MAT 145 College Algebra—at no cost to the student.

#### NICE Start Preschool

In 2010, the NICE Community School District implemented the NICE Start preschool program in partnership with the Alger-Marquette Community Action Board. The NICE Start preschool program provides 3- and 4-year old children the opportunity to develop skills necessary for Kindergarten and beyond. Children enrolled in NICE Start have opportunities to demonstrate problem-solving skills, the capacity to make good choices and will exhibit positive social behaviors. In 2010-11, the program served approximately twenty five (25) children.

- ✓ In 2010, the NICE Community School District was featured in the *Education Report* published by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. The article summarized the new initiatives implemented as a result of the district’s Project ReImagine status.
- ✓ The NICE Community School District is a member of a five-district consortium (NICE, Oxford, Berrien Springs, Manistee, Suttons Bay) named the Michigan Co-Op. The Michigan Co-Op is collaborating to implement online learning state-wide and enable any student (traditional, home-school, schools-of-choice, or drop-outs) to enroll in courses from each of the partner districts.

***For more information about the NICE Community School District, please visit [www.nice.k12.mi.us](http://www.nice.k12.mi.us) or contact the Central Office at 906-485-1021.***