

**Dowagiac Union High School is accredited by North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and has been recognized for meeting the Goal Approval Requirements for the Outcomes Endorsement.**



**Address:**  
701 West Prairie Ronde  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

# Dowagiac Union High School

## Mission Statement

The mission of the staff, students, and parents of Dowagiac Union High School is to provide a learning environment and to educate all students to their greatest potential. This will be accomplished through a mutual teaching-learning process so that each student may make a positive contribution to society.

## School Improvement Plan

DUHS has an active School Improvement Team which is working on the following goals:

1. *Improve writing across the curriculum*
2. *Improve math across the curriculum*
3. *Improve reading across the curriculum*

## Student Performance Target Areas and Results

### Reading Target Goal

**Strategies:**

All students will improve reading skills across the curriculum.

**Results:**

Compared to the 2007 MME scores the percent proficient in 2008 decreased by 6%. The 2008 scores are also below the state average by 5%.

### Mathematics Target Goal

**Strategies:**

All students will improve math skills across the curriculum.

**Results:**

Compared to the 2007 MME scores the percent proficient in 2008 decreased by 1%. The 2008 scores are also below the state average by 5%.

### Science Target Goal

**Strategies:**

All students will improve science skills across the curriculum.

**Results:**

Compared to the 2007 MME scores the percent proficient in 2008 decreased by 5%. The 2008 scores are also below the state average by 7%.

### Writing Target Goal:

**Strategies:**

All students will improve writing skills across the curriculum.

**Results:**

Compared to the 2007 MME scores the percent proficient in 2008 decreased by 5%. The 2008 scores are also below the state average by 1%.

## Retention Rates

Year	12 <sup>th</sup>
2007-2008	98%
2006-2007	95.6%
2005-2006	97%

## Teacher Qualification

Currently all of the DUHS teaching staff is "Highly Qualified" as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act.

	High Poverty Schools	Low Poverty Schools
Percentage of Teachers with Emergency or Provisional Credentials	0	0
Percentage of Teachers in district classrooms that are not Highly Qualified	0	0

## Conference Participation

School Year	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006	2004-2005
	18	40.5	44.0	47.5

## Attendance

School Year	2007-2008	2006-2007	2005-2006	2004-2005
	93.5	95%	95%	94.2%

## AYP

Performance of Local Educational Agencies Regarding Adequate Yearly Progress.

	Made AYP in 2007-08	Identified for Improvement in 2006-07
Number of Schools	NO	NONE

## Schools Identified for Improvement

School	Phase of School Improvement
DUHS	1st year not making AYP

## **MME**

### Michigan Merit Exam

The Michigan Merit Exam (MME) assesses students in the area of English language arts, math, science writing, reading and social studies. This chart illustrates a comparison of Dowagiac performance in each area tested to the state's performance. The ACT is also part of the MME.

Blank areas indicate there were not enough students in that category to provide data.

## High School Reading

Student Group Reading	2007-2008 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend
All Students	57	60	-5	0%	NA
African American/Black	30	62	-32		NA
American Indian/Native Alaskan					NA
Asian/Pacific Islander					NA
Hispanic					NA
Multiracial					NA
White	62	0	0		NA
Other					NA
Students with Disabilities					NA
Limited English Proficient					NA
Economically Disadvantaged	47	62	-15		NA
Migrant					NA
Male	54	0	8		NA
Female	60	0	2		NA

## High School Math

Student Group Math	2007-2008 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend
All Students	41	46	-5	0%	NA
African American/Black	10	46	-36		NA
American Indian/Native Alaskan					NA
Asian/Pacific Islander					NA
Hispanic					NA
Multiracial					NA
White	45	46	-1		NA
Other					NA
Students with Disabilities					NA
Limited English Proficient					NA
Economically Disadvantaged	29	46	-17		NA
Migrant					NA
Male	43	46	-3		NA
Female	38	46	-8		NA

## High School Writing

Student Group Writing	2007-2008 Assessment Results	State Target	Difference From State Target	Percent Not Tested	Two Year Trend
All Students	40	41	-1	0	NA
African American/Black	30	41	-9		NA
American Indian/Native Alaskan					NA
Asian/Pacific Islander					NA
Hispanic					NA
Multiracial					NA
White	42	41	+2		NA
Other					NA
Students with Disabilities					NA
Limited English Proficient					NA
Economically Disadvantaged	24	41	-17		NA
Migrant					NA
Male	32	41	-9		NA
Female	47	41	+6		NA

## Points of Pride

1. ***Dowagiac Union High School maintains a comprehensive web site:***

<http://www.dowagiacschools.org/duhs/dowagiacunionhighschool.htm>

At our web site, users can:

- Find the mission statement for the Dowagiac Union High School
- Obtain information about athletics including the schedules for all teams
- See what is new with the Dowagiac Marching Band
- View the curricula used in the Dowagiac School District
- View the guidance office information including ACT and SAT test dates

2. ***Dowagiac Union High School received a Bronze Medal from U.S. News and World Report:***

In December 2007, US News and World Report identified Dowagiac Union High

School as a Bronze Medal School. DUHS was the **only** public school in Berrien or Cass Counties to be given this distinction.

According to US News and World Report the distinction is based on the “Key principles that a high school must serve all of its students well, not just those who are bound for college, and that it must be able to produce measurable academic outcomes that show the school is successfully educating its student-body across a range of performance indicators.”

## Internal Communications

1. ***School Improvement Committee*** – A committee consisting of teachers, students, and parents who meet monthly to discuss areas of concern.
2. ***Faculty Meetings*** – Faculty meetings are conducted at a minimum of once a month in each building by principals. These meetings are used to discuss areas of concern, curriculum and informing staff members of district-wide items of interest.
3. ***Department Head*** – A school-wide Council consisting of the heads of each department discussing and reviewing curriculum. Individual departments also hold periodic meetings during the year.
4. ***Staff Notes*** – During the school year, almost every Friday, a summary is provided to all staff of upcoming events, meetings, etc.
5. ***Attendance Committee*** – A committee which meets monthly and discusses attendance policy and problems which may occur.

## Activities

### Athletic Boosters

The Athletic Boosters provide valuable assistance to the athletes and coaches throughout the school year culminated by the annual “All Sports Banquet” in the spring. Other activities include: providing financial support for individual

teams/programs; assisting athletes attending special events; concessions for MHSAA tournament events; serving as support personnel for game activities. During 1993-94 a major commitment was made to build a new press box at Chris Taylor Alumni Field. Approximately \$17,000 was raised and construction began in June. The project was completed in the fall of 1994.

### **Band Boosters (Union, DMS)**

The Band Boosters are a very active support group that promotes the band program in grades 6-12. Activities include: financial support for music, supplies, repairs; sponsoring band awards and conducting an annual banquet; sponsoring the John Phillip Sousa Award; providing camp scholarships.

## **Dowagiac Schools Foundation**

The organization was incorporated in 1984 for the benefit of students enrolled in the district and maintains tax-exempt status allowing all contributions to be tax deductible. The Board of Trustees are citizens of the district who serve without pay. The goal of the Foundation is to provide necessary financial support for important educational activities unable to be funded through the school system's operating budget. Staff members are given the opportunity to apply for mini-grants two times each year. Since its inception, over \$88,783 has been awarded for student/staff projects. The Foundation has provided transportation for field trips, Senior Citizen Luncheons at Union High School, Rocket Study Project at Kincheloe Elementary, and contributions to provide visitations from various authors.