

Dowagiac Union High School has successfully attained AYP status for the 2008 School Year---Congratulations Staff, Students and Parents!



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 2008 MME scores the percent proficient in 2009 decreased by 2%. The 2009 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 2008 MME scores the percent proficient in 2009 increased by 4%. The 2009 scores are also below the state average by 4%.

Science Target Goal

Strategies:

All students will improve science skills across the curriculum.

Results:

Compared to the 2008 MME scores the percent proficient in 2009 increased by 8%. The 2009 scores are also below the state average by 2%.

Writing Target Goal:

Strategies:

All students will improve writing skills across the curriculum.

Results:

Compared to the 2008 MME scores the percent proficient in 2009 increased by 1%. The 2009 scores are also below the state average by 3%.

Retention Rates

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Year | 12 th |
| 2008-2009 | 98.5% |
| 2007-2008 | 98% |
| 2006-2007 | 95.6% |

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 | 2008-2009 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2005-2006 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 21 | 18 | 40.5 | 44.0 |

Attendance

| School Year | 2008-2009 | 2007-2008 | 2006-2007 | 2005-2006 |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 95.3 | 93.5 | 95% | 95% |

AYP

Performance of Local Educational Agencies Regarding Adequate Yearly Progress.

| | Made AYP in 2008-09 | Identified for Improvement in 2008-09 |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Number of Schools | YES | NONE |

Schools Identified for Improvement

| School | Phase of School Improvement |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| DUHS | Not Identified for Improvement |

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 | 2008-2009 Assessment Results | State Target | Difference From State Target | Percent Not Tested | Two Year Trend |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| All Students | 55 | 60 | -5 | 0% | NA |
| African American/Black | 33 | 60 | -27 | | NA |
| American Indian/Native Alaskan | | | | | NA |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | | | | | NA |
| Hispanic | | | | | NA |
| Multiracial | | | | | NA |
| White | 61 | 60 | +1 | | NA |
| Other | | | | | NA |
| Students with Disabilities | | | | | NA |
| Limited English Proficient | | | | | NA |
| Economically Disadvantaged | 45 | 60 | -15 | | NA |
| Migrant | | | | | NA |
| Male | 43 | 60 | -17 | | NA |
| Female | 69 | 60 | +9 | | NA |

High School Math

| Student Group Math | 2008-2009 Assessment Results | State Target | Difference From State Target | Percent Not Tested | Two Year Trend |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| All Students | 45 | 49 | -4 | 0% | NA |
| African American/Black | 17 | 49 | -32 | | NA |
| American Indian/Native Alaskan | | | | | NA |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | | | | | NA |
| Hispanic | | | | | NA |
| Multiracial | | | | | NA |
| White | 50 | 49 | +1 | | NA |
| Other | | | | | NA |
| Students with Disabilities | | | | | NA |
| Limited English Proficient | | | | | NA |
| Economically Disadvantaged | 35 | 49 | -14 | | NA |
| Migrant | | | | | NA |
| Male | 42 | 49 | -7 | | NA |
| Female | 49 | 49 | 0 | | NA |

High School Writing

| Student Group Writing | 2008-2009 Assessment Results | State Target | Difference From State Target | Percent Not Tested | Two Year Trend |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|
| All Students | 41 | 44 | -3 | 0 | NA |
| African American/Black | 22 | 44 | -22 | | NA |
| American Indian/Native Alaskan | | | | | NA |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | | | | | NA |
| Hispanic | | | | | NA |
| Multiracial | | | | | NA |
| White | 45 | 44 | +1 | | NA |
| Other | | | | | NA |
| Students with Disabilities | | | | | NA |
| Limited English Proficient | | | | | NA |
| Economically Disadvantaged | 27 | 44 | -14 | | NA |
| Migrant | | | | | NA |
| Male | 30 | 44 | -11 | | NA |
| Female | 54 | 44 | +13 | | NA |

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 which 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.

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
 - Get up to date scholarship information

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.

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.