



ACT/MME: Scores trend upward

While the new cut scores have definitely had an impact on MME scores across the state, there is still good news when you look at how Davison students are faring on the state mandated test.

"The most important thing about these tests is that in every single subject and on every single test there has been an upward trend," said Assistant Superintendent Kevin Brown. "In some cases they might not be significant increases but we are continuing to improve and we are not sliding backward. To me, that is very important."

District Assessment Coordinator Eric Chorley shared results of the MME/ACT, taken by high school juniors in the spring, as well as information about ACT college readiness benchmarks and AYP (annual yearly progress) letter grades for school buildings during a presentation at Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

ACT/MME Results: The Board of Education's Instructional Goal is that the percentage of students achieving satisfactory performance on all subtests of the Michigan Department of Education Assessment Program will annually rank among the top 5 percent in the state of Michigan. While board members and district officials agree that this is a "stretch" goal, Davison students continually get closer to the mark when it comes to the MME/ACT.

"Our students have scored in the 90th percentile on five of the 10 tests included in the ACT/MME assessment and at or above the 80th percentile in all of the subjects on the ACT," said Brown. "We are very, very close and definitely moving in the right direction."

This year, Davison High School juniors scored in the following percentiles statewide:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>MME</u>	<u>ACT</u>
Math	77th percentile	84th percentile
Reading	91st percentile	90th percentile
Science	85th percentile	87th percentile

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The mission of the Davison Community Schools is to develop individuals who demonstrate skills necessary for lifelong success in a changing, global society.



Board Briefs is a monthly newsletter published after Board of Education meetings. For additional information, please contact the Communications Department at 591-0852.

Donations accepted

The following contributions was accepted by board members Monday night:

- The **Davison Optimist Club** donated 60 backpacks filled with school supplies.
- **Living Grace Community Church** donated 45 backpacks filled with school supplies to Gates Elementary.
- **The First Baptist Church of Davison** donated 47 backpacks filled with school supplies.
- **Chartwells Food Service** donated \$1,000 to help cover the costs of food served to guests at this year's Back to School Blast.

Konkle reappointed

Skip Konkle was reappointed to serve as the school district's representative on the Davison Community Enrichment and Recreation Advisory Board.

Board Briefs



Welcome new teachers!

Board members had the opportunity to meet and mingle with new teachers at a brief reception held prior to Monday night's Board of Education meeting. This year, 25 teachers have joined the Davison school family. In addition to replacing teachers who retired, the district moved to an all-day kindergarten program this year, prompting the need for additional staff. Right, Kara Vergison, Andrea Nyquist and Rachel Taylor are teaching at Siple Elementary. Below, new high school teacher Lauren Draper joins her mom, Leigh Anne, who teaches fourth grade at Hill Elementary.



Above, Board Treasurer Kim Lindsay and Trustee Doug Theodoroff chat with new Central teachers Kristen Kirchner and Ben Montgomery. Below, Rachel Wheaton, new kindergarten teacher at Thomson shares in a conversation with Central Elementary Principal Jennifer Torok and Executive Director of Student Services Donna Whitley.



Above, Board Secretary Karen Conover listens intently along with Megan Kellie, GSRP teacher, and Carolyn Proctor, Thomson kindergarten teacher.



Action Items

Board updates goals through 2015/16 school year

Board of Education members approved updated goals at Monday night's meeting.

The three core goals addressing Instruction, Resources and School Climate, will remain the same, however, there are new strategies and, in some cases, measurements of how those goals are progressing.

The goals include:

Instructional Goal: *All students will achieve academic success through quality instruction and support.*

Resources Goal: *Davison Community Schools will maximize its resources.*

School Climate Goal: *Schools will develop and maintain a cooperative, safe and respectful environment.*

A complete list of the goals, indicators and measurements is available by clicking on the following link:

<http://www.davisonschools.org/files/filesystem/BoardGoals2012-16.pdf> or visiting our website and clicking on the School Board or About Us buttons.

The goals are in effect through the 2015-16 school year.

Bids approved for replacement boiler at Gates

The low bid of \$84,400 was accepted by board members Monday night to replace boilers at Gates Elementary. The work, which will be performed by Controlled Temperature Inc. of Walled Lake, will include the demolition and removal of the three existing boilers and installation of two cast iron boilers.

Work on the project began Tuesday and the expected completion date is October 12, according to Phil Thom, Director of Operations.

Soc. Studies	92nd percentile	NA
Writing	92nd percentile	92 percentile
English	NA	87th percentile

Brown said the district will begin to implement a universal math screener for students in grades 3-8. This will allow teachers to pinpoint what concept a student may be struggling with and develop a targeted intervention plan.

"We have been doing that for years in language arts," Brown said. "We think this will help us to continue in the right direction."

On the ACT, Davison juniors scored a composite average of 21.

"That is outstanding," Chorley said. "Our students have increased over one full point since 2008."

ACT College Readiness Benchmarks: The new cut scores are the driving force behind the ACT College Readiness Benchmarks, according to Chorley. Students who meet a Benchmark on the ACT have approximately a 50 percent chance of earning a B or better and approximately a 75 percent chance of earning a C or better in a related college course.

These benchmark scores are:

English: 18

Math: 22

Reading: 21

Science: 24

"ACT derived the benchmarks by examining ACT test scores against college students' first year of corresponding courses," explained Chorley. "So a student who earns a 22 in math has a 50 percent chance of earning a B or a 75 percent chance of earning a C in a first year college math course."

These benchmarks are what Governor Rick Snyder is referring to when he states that 17 percent of Michigan students are college ready. But what people don't realize is that the governor is combining all four subjects. In other words, a student has to meet the benchmarks in all four subjects—English, math, reading and science—in order to be deemed "college ready."

"What the governor wants is for every single student to be both a poet and an engineer," Chorley said. Last year, 73 out of 338 Davison High School students, or 20 percent, met the benchmarks in all four subjects.

However, in 2010, 76 percent of Davison High School seniors were enrolled in a post secondary program. Of that cohort, 83 percent went on to enroll in their second year of a post secondary program.

"Let's be honest with ourselves," said Superintendent Eric Lieske. "If a kid goes to college and successfully completes a year of college, isn't that college ready? I have a hard time with the fact that we are required to post on our website that only 20 percent of our graduates are college ready. Certainly, we want to continue to raise the academic achievement bar and that will continue to happen but, remember, Michigan is only one of six other states that require all of their kids in the 11th grade to take the ACT. The other 43 states are using the ACT as an assessment tool that is only given to kids who are going to college. I think that has to be part of the story."

"It's astounding to me that we have these arbitrary numbers (to determine college readiness)," added Trustee Doug Theodoroff. "Let's just get kids in college and see how they do after a year or two. That makes so much more sense."

Brown agreed that using benchmark scores in all four areas to determine whether or not a student is college ready is misleading.

"The bottom line is we are doing a good job of getting our kids college ready and our statistics show that," he said.

AYP and Letter Grades: This is the last year the state will give out letter grades to school buildings. Next year a color-coded system will be used to indicate how a school is performing.

This year, all buildings earned AYP but letter grades were lower due to the change in cut scores. Only six percent of schools across the state received an "A" letter grade while 21 percent earned a "B."

In Davison, the grades were as follows:

Central	B
High School	C
Middle School	C
Gates	B
Hahn	B
Hill	B
Siple	B

Letter grades are not given out for Thomson Elementary or Davison Alternative Education. Kindergarten students are not assessed statewide and alternative education buildings are not included in the grading.