

Bridge Academy



Bridge Academy-East Campus
9600 Buffalo St, Hamtramck, MI 48212

Phone 313-462-6100 ~ Fax 313.462-6101 ~ www.bridge-academy.org

School Annual Education Report (AER)

March 17, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-15 educational progress for Bridge Academy East. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please use the schools contact information above.

The Bridge Academy East AER letter is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <https://goo.gl/vWyBEs> You may review a copy in the main office at Bridge East. A AER letter will also be given directly to Parents/Guardians as well.

We are Bridge Academy:

Bridge Academy East (BAE) is a Title I Elementary school servicing Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Our mission is to promote lifelong learning by nurturing academic excellence, positive character and an appreciation of cultures. We are proud to have such a highly qualified staff including an ESL, Special Education, and Reading Specialists whom all together are educating approximately 450 students per year. Of those 450 students enrolled at BAE 99% receive Free and Reduced Lunch, over 70% are identified as ELL students, with 25 of these ELL students are refugees new to our country in the 2014-15 school year with more coming every month.

Challenges:

The main challenge we face on a day to day basis is the growing number of ELL students and our ability to service them with our specialist. We also struggle with making that home connection. Not all but many of our students are the first in their family to be attending school in the States and are the only members of their family that speak and write in English. This is a challenge because for many students there is no one to help at home and the importance of education is not apparent in some cases. Other important challenges facing BAE are: teacher retention, academic achievement gaps, and lofty expectations of standardized testing scores placed on us by the Michigan Department of Education and Ferris State University our Authorizers.

Key Initiatives:

A few key initiatives that we feel are accelerating the closing of the achievement gap are as followed

Teacher Retention: We continued our Curriculum Coaches program and retained 90% of the previous school years certified teaching staff. Resulting in a more supported, experienced, trained, and effective teaching staff.

School-Wide Team Teaching: team teaching was a nonnegotiable implemented per grade level grouping students for Reading and Math by their ability. What it looked like was the broking down of the entire grade level so that students were receiving rigorous instruction daily for 45 minute on top of their class instruction at their instructional learning level in small groups.

Support: We support our ELL and Special Education students by providing daily service from our ESL Specialist, Reading Specialist, and Special Education Specialist. Students are seen daily and monitored progress with MTSS and AIMS web. Teacher support is received by Administration and Curriculum Coaches in the content areas of Language Arts and Mathematics.

Data and Instruction: Staff are using multiple sources of data to drive instruction. Data from MAP Testing and Progress Monitoring is used to differentiate instruction, group students for small group instruction, and to determine if a student is MTSS and what services they need to be successful.

State law requires that we also report on the following additional information.

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment is designed to give all interested parents equal opportunity for their child to attend Bridge Academy. Any student who resides in the state of Michigan is eligible to place an application. Open enrollment periods typically occur in the spring and are announced to the general public through newspaper ads, mailings or other forms of advertising.

Because space is limited, after the close of open enrollment if the number of applications exceeds the number of openings, a random selection drawing ("lottery") will be performed to determine admissions. If the number of applications does not exceed the number of openings, all eligible applicants will receive an acceptance letter for their respective grade.

Please note: *The Board of Directors of Bridge Academy authorizes the Global Educational Excellence or the Academy Leader to deny admission to any student who has a documented record of behavior that would constitute a threat to the safety and well-being of fellow students and staff.*

The enrolment process is outlined at: <http://www.bridge-academy.org/enrollment>

3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Goal 1.

Bridge Academy will score 5% greater on the M-Step than the performance of its Composite Resident District.

Sub Goal:

Each Grade Level: Kindergarten to 8th Grade will meet or surpass the average percent growth(Gains%ile) as presented by the NWEA's National NORMs

Bridge Academy Cohorts with 3+ years of attendance will meet College Readiness Targets by 2018-19 school year.

Strategies:

- NWEA MAP test – Given three times a year in the Fall Winter and Spring
- Data Teams (training from Ferris State in October – monitoring ongoing by GEE team)

- Evidence Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI) – (training started in 2012 and as new staff are hired training is conducted by GEE trainer – monitoring by GEE mentors all year)
- Engage NY – (training from GEE in August – monitoring by GEE mentors all year)
- Multi-tiered system of support (AIMs Web progress monitoring and ongoing support on strategies from intervention team)
- Student Talk – use of sentence stems and classroom strategies involving student talk
- GEE Mentors will be working with teachers once a week on effective instructional strategies and curriculum support (ongoing all school year)
- Bottom 30% of students are pulled out of Arabic twice a week for remediation and during library time

Goal 2.

By school year, 2018-19 exit the number of 3-year cohort ESL students by 20%.

Sub Goal:

English learners will meet Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAO) 1 objective by 5% making progress annually as measured by the WIDA assessment

English learners will meet (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives) AMAO 2 objective by 10% proficient annually as measured by WIDA.

Strategies:

- The strategies that will be implemented for Goal 2 in addition to the ones listed above are;
- Address ESL staffing to provide support for newcomers in grades KG – 8th by addition of a new ESL Teacher or Paraprofessionals
- Sheltered Instructional Observational Protocol (SIOP) training for all staff (starting in November – monitoring by GEE mentors all year)
- Newcomers and Level 1 in WIDA will get focused instruction in English during Arabic time – After School Tues. – Thurs for 1st – 5th and Mon.-Thurs. 6th-8th from 3:45 – 4:45pm, Saturday ELL school for 6th-8th grade ESL students

Goal 3.

Maintain 10% of state aid fund balance for 2015-16. 3 year goal to increase to 15% fund balance.

Strategies:

- Review monthly expenses with members of the administrative team, school board
- Review projections on fund balance on a quarterly basis – members of the school board, finance department and school administration
- Work with facility department to have energy efficient plans during the school year to lower costs. IE Efficient Bulbs, Working water fountains, sinks, toilets, recycling program, etc...

Goal 4.

For school year 2015-16 and beyond, we will maintain 90% of our academic teaching staff.

Strategies:

- Merit Pay, rewarding staff members for student achievement.
- Focused attention towards staff accomplishments - Affirmation Board.
- Mentor for each teaching staff member for on the job training/professional development.
- Health Benefit pay in less than 5%.

Core Curriculum

At Bridge Academy we are always looking to implement the best curriculum available. In the 2014-15 school year we began implementing the Engage New York curriculum for both reading and Math. It is common core aligned and we feel best prepares our students for what is expected of them on M-Step, WIDA, and MAP testing. For Science we are teaching based on the Next Generation Science Standards. For Social Studies we use MDE Grade Level Content Expectations (GICE's) to drive our instruction.

Our curriculum: Content, Standards, Map, and Resources are online at Rubican Altas curriculum warehouse and are available on campus upon request.

State and Standardized Assessment Results

Michigan Department of Education - M-Step Scorecard

School Name	Status Label	Key to accelerate achievement
Bridge Academy East (Elementary)	No Label	Grade Level Team Teaching, Subject Area Coaches, Retention of Staff

Note: We received a score of GREEN in all content areas but due to a rostering error where Special Education students and English Language Learners new to the country were left on the roster and did not test it was held against us. We appealed to the MDE but the appeal was rejected.

Scantron EdPerformance Series

Grade	Reading 2013-14	Reading 2014-15	Math 2013-14	Math 2014-15
Kindergarten	1777	1675	1852	1890
1 st	1660	1996	2175	2091
2 nd	2239	2186	2253	2326
3 rd	2239	2328	2253	2360
4 th	2596	2543	2567	2483
5 th	2645	2747	2590	2699
6 th	2595	2636	2618	2630
7 th	2674	2697	2699	2727
8 th	2678	2789	2790	2756

Note: 2014-15 was Bridge Academy's last year using the Scantron Ed Performance Series Test. We are currently using NWEA MAP Test and in the 2015-16 AER we will only have one year of data to share.

Parent Teacher Conferences

We are proud of our community and our wonderful Parents. They are always welcome at our school whether it be for Parent Teacher Conferences, School Play, Guest Reader, Reading Night, Movie Night, Spelling Bees, Math Competition, or Coffee with the Principal.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

In 2014-15 358 out of 449 students had their Parent or Guardian present at Parent Teacher Conferences. Which calculates to 80% of our students were represented by a parent and or guardian during Parent Teacher Conferences. Please come in and join us for our next social event. See the calendar at www.bridge-academy.org

In 2013-14 336 out of 448 students had their parent or Guardian present at PTC's. Since 2012-13 we have averaged approximately 75% parent participation in our Parent Teacher Conferences.

Stakeholder Events include: Family Orientation, Curriculum Night, Career Day, Book Fair, Art Fair, Science Fair, Culture Day, Year End Celebration

Principal Letter

Bridge Academy utilizes state funds specifically targeted at students at risk of failure or not graduating. The funds support paraprofessionals help in the classrooms. Special education students are eligible for services through the age of 26. Services are provided on site for disabilities. Special education students participate in the regular education program and curriculum to the maximum extent possible with support from special education teachers and paraprofessionals. Each disabled student has an Individual Education Plan with accommodations that the student may utilize in the classroom.

Bridge Academy will continue to strive for academic excellence in all areas of education. Students, staff and parents will keep working effectively to achieve our authorization's goals, our management goals and MDOE goals. We believe we can do it because we have highly qualified staff, excellent parents' involvement, updated curriculum, needed resources, learning environment and effective leadership.

When it comes to M-STEP, we must ask ourselves: Would we rather have an easier test that doesn't get our students where they need to be for careers in the future, or do we want a strong and useful test that helps our kids be successful in life? We are joining with Bridge Academy parents in saying we want every child to be as successful as possible.

Please let me know if you have questions about the M-STEP exam, Michigan's new learning standards, or your child's progress overall. I am at your service and look forward to helping your child continue toward the best possible start in life.

Sincerely,

Dr. Najji Abduljaber, Principal