

A Call to Action – Eliminating the Achievement Gap in the Ann Arbor Public Schools

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Board of Education and staff have embarked upon a comprehensive Achievement Gap Elimination Plan to end student achievement disparities related to race, ethnicity or household income.

This urgent mission is the centerpiece of our school improvement work designed to meet the needs of individual students. By working toward eliminating this gap in selected groups, we will raise achievement levels for all Ann Arbor students.

We use the common term “achievement gap,” while recognizing that innate ability does not differ among race, ethnicity and income. In actual practice, a personalized learning approach in the Ann Arbor Public Schools recognizes the worth and creativity of each student.

Achievement gaps in the district have declined in recent years. Ann Arbor students of all races, ethnicities and income levels surpass state averages in nearly all cases. And when we remove economically disadvantaged and special education groups from the data, the gap for minority students is considerably smaller.

While we are proud of this progress, we have much work left to do. To continue making progress, we pledge:

- **To align K-12 curriculum and work with teaching staff** to set students on a path to career and college readiness.
- **To raise the bar for all students** in Mathematics, English, Language Arts and Science. This includes raising expectations for teaching staff.
- **To increase preparation for and enrollment in advanced-level classes.**
- **To continue to add new partnerships** with neighborhood centers, universities and faith-based organizations to involve the community.

We have a history of working with organizations that address achievement gap issues, of putting programs such as Rising Scholars in place to encourage enrollment in advanced courses and of changing hiring policies and curriculum. This has set us on a course to improvement. Intervention and alternative programs are helping students reach higher levels through individualized learning.

We want to increase these efforts and have implemented the Achievement Gap Elimination Plan to do this.

