

## Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System (Muskegon Heights, Michigan 2012-2014)

The Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System was established in 2012 when the state-appointed Emergency Manager for the School District of the City of Muskegon Heights effectively converted the troubled K-12 school group to a charter school system. Spread out over four campuses, the schools had commonly been plagued by discipline issues, violence and low performance largely at the middle and high school levels. Students regularly skipped school, ignored dress codes and fought.

Mosaica Education was awarded the charter management contract in July 2012. In less than two months, Mosaica hired and trained a new staff, recruited and enrolled students, and brought school facilities up to code.

Though projects as simple as student scheduling were challenging due to records being incomplete or missing, Mosaica successfully opened the system on September 4, 2012.

By the second semester of the turnaround, the school climate had changed dramatically. Attendance was up, discipline problems were down. A student-led committee was established and created guidelines for uniforms and an appropriate dress code. Staff regularly attended after-school professional development sessions designed by Mosaica Education to improve school culture, school climate, instructional quality and student achievement.

By the second year of the turnaround, average daily attendance was over 90% at all schools (as opposed to 48% in the first semester of turnaround). All students were in uniform, and suspensions, expulsions and disciplinary referrals were greatly reduced. At the high school, the former average of more than one police visit per day disappeared; not one police call was made in the 2013-14 school year.

Academically, the turnaround was just as pronounced. Initial testing in 2012 had shown that 92% of students were more than two grade levels behind in Reading, with similar scores in Math.

By 2013, Edgewood Elementary Academy students outperformed their peers at five surrounding schools on the 2013 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).



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"From 2012-14, average student achievement growth in math and reading across Muskegon schools ranged anywhere from 155% in reading among elementary students, all the way to 243% in math among high school students. And it's not just a select few students achieving at these levels, seeing as the average daily attendance rate is over 90% at all four schools."

Center for Education Reform, April 2014 - Newswire

## MUSKEGON HEIGHTS RESULTS CONTINUED...

SCHOOL	READING	MATH
Edgewood	26%	35%
Marquette	22%	27%
Timberland	8%	<b>29</b> %
Moon	13%	30%
Nelson	4%	14%
Oakview	5%	31%



Edgewood Elementary student performance on MEAP Reading and Math assessments increased 33% in student growth when compared to the percentage of students showing improvement on the 2012 MEAP assessment. Muskegon Heights Middle students increased 24% in student growth on MEAP Reading and Math. Performance Series Testing revealed the following average total growth from Fall 2012 to Winter 2014:

SCHOOL COHORT	READING	MATH
Edgewood Elementary	155%	159%
Middle School	158%	232%
High School	184%	243%

In keeping with the Mosaica Model, Muskegon Heights students received a well-rounded education. In addition to academic performance, Muskegon Heights students received external awards in Art, made it to the state semi-finals in sports, nurtured edible school gardens, and instituted a high school Robotics program. The local community became engaged as well, as evidenced by private donations to support achievement and technology initiatives.







"I just left Edgewood Elementary in Muskegon Heights...The instruction that I witnessed was phenomenal! It is no wonder then that the gains made on their state standardized assessments in one year were so extraordinary. That's what happens when you have strong leaders in place..."

Barute Kafele, Internationally-recognized Education Speaker & Consultant

March 2013 - Facebook

