



**RALPH J. BUNCHE ACADEMY**  
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313.294.4710

**Kelley Beck**  
Principal

## **School Annual Education Report (AER)**

March 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-2016 educational progress for Ralph J. Bunche Academy. 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 contact Kelley Beck at 313-294-4710 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [www.eps.k12.mi.us](http://www.eps.k12.mi.us) or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given.

Our school has not been given one of these labels. In fact, Bunche Academy made significant student achievement gains for the 2016-2017 calendar as reported by the state Top to Bottom ranking.

In the past four years, Ralph J. Bunche Academy staff has worked with a renewed focus to improve student achievement. This effort has shown significant growth in student achievement. This complete turnaround is due to the renewed focus of the district and staff.

Our school improvement team established three "Big Ideas" for the school year:

1. Instructional Focus on Common Core State Standards
2. Differentiated Instruction focusing on Guided Reading and Mathematics Centers

### 3. Implement Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)

The staff at Ralph J. Bunche Academy believes that these "Big Ideas" will continue to increase student achievement across the curriculum. The building is using a variety of assessment metrics to monitor progress throughout the year. These assessments include: district, building and classroom monitoring tools to ensure that all students are progressing at a significant rate.

- Students work on Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS). These interventions establish positive character traits and more time on task behavior for all students. Students engage in the process by establishing classroom expectations, working on behavior protocols throughout the building, and developing coping skills to improve communication.
- Students are assessed in the areas of mathematics and reading. These assessments are administered three times a year: baseline (fall), progress monitoring (winter), and growth (spring). This monitoring assists staff and ensures accurate student instructional levels. This is part of the Multi Tier System of Support (MTSS) process of identifying strengths, weaknesses and gaps in learning. All students are tiered and monitored on a weekly basis. This progress monitoring allows for flexible grouping and student movement as skills increase throughout the year.

The staff at Bunche has implemented technology as the major vehicle to administer instruction. All students have access to Apple® iPADS, computers in the classroom and computer laboratory environments. Staff uses audio/visual, Smartboard®, interactive lessons, Apple® iPads and document cameras to effectively deliver instruction.

As part of ongoing school improvement, the staff at Ralph J. Bunche Academy undergo extensive job-embedded professional development throughout the year. This professional development allows staff to build capacity to deliver more effective instruction to students. The school has a partnership with Wayne Regional Educational Agency (WRESA) to provide coaching and support to all staff members. Coaches work with grade level teams in Professional Learning Communities (PLC) to increase rigor of instruction by: lesson planning, modeling, Instructional Learning Cycles (ILC) and progress monitoring.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

- **PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

Ralph J. Bunche Academy houses Pre-Kindergarten students through the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) grant. This allows 4 year-olds to receive a full day of instruction from highly qualified teachers. There are four (4) full-day classrooms for a total of 68 students.

Ralph J. Bunche Academy is the only public school that houses pre-kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grades in Ecorse. Therefore, children in these grades attend our school.

Ecorse Public Schools are "schools of choice" aimed at giving families the opportunity to choose the school their children will attend. This has been an ongoing program for the past five years.

- **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN STATUS**

The Ralph J. Bunche Academy School Improvement Plan was submitted on September 1, 2016. We are a Schoolwide Title I school.

- **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL**

Ralph J. Bunche Academy offers an accelerated program called Project Excel. This program challenges and pushes children to achieve academic excellence. This program is offered to students in grades 1 through 3. The students must be academically functioning at 1.0 or above grade level.

- **ECORSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CORE CURRICULUM**

The core curriculum is accessible at <http://www.eps.k12.mi.us>

**Implementation**

Instructional strategies and grade level expectations are aligned to the state standards. Ralph J. Bunche Academy aligns the curriculum, lesson planning and pacing calendars to the national and state standards. Texts, supplemental materials and resources used in the classroom are directly linked to the grade level expectations.

- **LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS AND AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS**

Ecorse Public Schools District adopted the MAP® - Measures of Academic Progress in Spring 2013. The tests produce scores that make it possible to monitor student growth from year to year along developmental curriculum scales. The assessments are administered three times a year and results are used for baseline data, progress monitoring and growth.

- **THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Most of Ralph J. Bunche Academy school events are well attended and 154 or 46% of our parents attended Parent-Teacher conferences in the fall of 2016.

Our mission at Ralph J. Bunche Academy is to promote a positive school climate that enhances student learning through engagement in rigorous educational opportunities while maintaining high expectations.

It is our belief at Ralph J. Bunche Academy that all children can succeed beyond expectations. As we continue on the path of success, we encourage increased support from our parents. The staff is committed to high academic achievement for all students. Join us as we continue to celebrate excellence in our school community. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

*Kelley Beck*

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Principal