

**SOO HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
2008 - 2009  
ANNUAL  
EDUCATION REPORT**



**MISSION STATEMENT**

**With teachers, parents, and students working together, Soo Hill School will be the source of knowledge for all students by providing a positive environment, superior curriculum, and a cooperative staff that has high expectations for student achievement. Students will have high self-esteem and respect for self, others, and their surroundings.**

## **ABOUT OUR SCHOOL**

Soo Hill School enjoys a proud tradition of academic excellence and a high rate of parent involvement. Students, parents, and staff work together to the benefit of all.

We serve approximately 340 students with two sections of each grade in grades 1-5 and two sections of each of readiness kindergarten and kindergarten. In addition, we have a special education resource classroom and a classroom for students who are cognitively impaired.

Our staff consists of a principal, fourteen regular classroom teachers, one at-risk teacher, one special education resource room teacher, one teacher for the cognitively impaired classroom, two special education program aides, four teacher assistants, eight health care aides, one part-time library clerk, one secretary, one cook, four noon-hour supervisors, and two custodians. We are provided the services of a social worker and a school nurse. We have supportive educational staff for art, technology, vocal music, physical education, and the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program for fifth graders. We also provide speech therapy, occupational therapy, special education consultant and diagnostic services. All of Soo Hill's teachers and teacher assistants are highly qualified under the criteria established by NCLB. None of our teachers are teaching with emergency or provisional credentials.

## **ACCREDITATION STATUS**

Soo Hill Elementary has made adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the past five school years. We received an A composite grade this year from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) under the Education Yes! Accreditation System. Last year, we received an A composite grade from the MDE.

## **STATUS OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Following are the goals developed by our School Improvement Team and information regarding our progress toward attainment of these goals.

**Math:** All students will demonstrate proficiency in the areas of measurement, money, time and geometry as defined by the Michigan Curriculum benchmarks.

**Evidence of Success:** Our school focused on teaching strategies to help students better understand the concepts in the above stated goal. On our district Pre and Post tests in Math most students showed growth from the beginning of the year to the end in Math proficiency. On the MEAP, third and fourth grade students were in the 90% proficient range in these areas but our fifth graders struggled with 67% being proficient. We have adjusted our focus and are planning to make changes to improve student achievement in math.

**ELA-Writing:** All students will be proficient at using details to construct and support meaning of information.

**Evidence of Success:** Our staff continued to implement Power Writing in the following fashion: K-2: Use Power Writing to help students recognize main idea and detail; Grades 3-5: Use graphic organizers, Use Power Writing and graphic organizers to help students recognize the main idea of paragraphs to summarize reading. Most of our k-3 students improved on their DIBELS assessments and our 1-5 grade students improved on

their STAR testing. Our MEAP scores improved in third and fifth, but our fourth graders struggled with this assessment as did this grade level across the state. We will continue to focus on writing as a top priority for school improvement.

**Science:** All students will achieve proficiency in Science

**Evidence of Success:** Teachers trained students to use graphic organizers and power writing strategies to improve student performance on constructed response questions. Our fifth grade students improved in this area on the MEAP.

**Social Studies:** Students will demonstrate or show understanding of time chronology 2) Students will identify branches of Government 3) Students will demonstrate an understanding of economic terms 4) Students will demonstrate an ability to take a stand on a Public Policy Issue

**Evidence of Success:** Teachers trained students to use graphic organizers and power writing strategies to improve student performance on constructed response questions. Classrooms had timelines in their classrooms that they added to throughout the year. Interactive Government and economic projects took place in some of our upper elementary classrooms. Students had a better understanding of many economic terms after role playing.

## **CORE CURRICULUM**

The Escanaba District has developed and adopted its core curriculum. It is currently being updated to meet the changes that have come from the state. Soo Hill staff members have been active participants in these activities. Core curriculum documents are on file at the Superintendent's office. Our ISD is currently working on the changes for Science and Social Studies and plans to get it to all teachers this fall. The Escanaba Area Public School District Report outlines our school's progress toward the National Education Goals.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA**

The MEAP test is administered to all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in reading, writing and mathematics. Our 5<sup>th</sup> grade students also test in science.

### **A. Scores at Soo Hill Elementary are listed in the chart below.**

- A student who has earned a level 1 score has exceeded Michigan standards.
- A student who has earned a level 2 score has met Michigan standards. A student who has earned a level 3 score is considered to be at a basic level.
- A student with a level 4 score is said to be at the apprentice level. Earlier in this report (School Improvement Goal Number 1) when we compared the number of students who had met or exceeded Michigan standards on the MEAP we were comparing the percentage of students at Soo Hill who had earned a 1 or a 2 on each MEAP test against the state average number of students who scored a 1 or a 2 on each MEAP test.

**Third Grade Scores (the percent listed represents the % of students who scored proficient)**

	<b><u>SH 08</u></b>	<b><u>District 08</u></b>	<b><u>State 08</u></b>	<b><u>SH 07</u></b>	<b><u>District 07</u></b>	<b><u>State 07</u></b>	<b><u>SH 06</u></b>	<b><u>District 06</u></b>	<b><u>State 06</u></b>
Reading	92	94	86	94	91	86	94	93	87
Writing	66	68	61	55	60	57	60	58	52
ELA	92	92	83	88	86	81	87	88	79
Mathematics	92	96	91	98	96	90	96	96	88

**Fourth Grade Scores (the percent listed represents the % of students who scored proficient)**

	<b><u>SH 08</u></b>	<b><u>District 08</u></b>	<b><u>State 08</u></b>	<b><u>SH 07</u></b>	<b><u>District 07</u></b>	<b><u>State 07</u></b>	<b><u>SH 06</u></b>	<b><u>District 06</u></b>	<b><u>State 06</u></b>
Reading	91	87	83	92	91	84	91	86	85
Writing	28	45	44	57	54	44	54	44	45
ELA	91	82	77	86	85	76	91	82	78
Mathematics	93	93	88	98	93	86	93	89	85

**Fifth Grade Scores (the percent listed represents the % of students who scored proficient)**

	<b><u>SH 08</u></b>	<b><u>District 08</u></b>	<b><u>State 08</u></b>	<b><u>SH 07</u></b>	<b><u>District 07</u></b>	<b><u>State 07</u></b>	<b><u>SH 06</u></b>	<b><u>District 06</u></b>	<b><u>State 06</u></b>
Reading	93	91	82	96	93	82	91	85	84
Writing	70	72	63	67	68	59	60	51	57
ELA	91	88	78	93	78	78	87	78	78
Mathematics	67	78	77	87	86	74	83	81	76
Science	89	93	83	96	90	82	93	93	83

\* ELA stands for English Language Arts

An examination of Soo Hill's MEAP scores over the last three years shows many of our students scoring at the Met and Exceeds Expectations levels. Writing scores fell across the board in fourth grade but went up in third and fifth; this was a big focus for us this past year and it is in our school improvement plan to keep this as a top priority. There is a slight drop in the percentage of students scoring proficient on a few core assessment areas in different grade levels, and others that show an increase from the previous year. This is a nice improvement; we are now above the state average in all but two core subject areas. Examination of our MEAP performance data disaggregated by gender demonstrates no statistically significant gender issues. Our minority population is too small to identify possible inequities. We continue to review test results on a yearly basis and will address any equity issues that are found.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Over 95% percent of our parents attended at least one Parent-Teacher Conference this year. Last year we had 96% participation.

The Soo Hill P.T.O. continues to be a very active group working in many areas of the school including volunteering in the library/computer laboratory, organizing school pictures, providing a Halloween Carnival, supporting March Reading Month activities, providing Book Fairs, organizing the Student Fun Day, etc.. We also have parents involved on School Improvement Subcommittees.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT**

The majority of the staff at Soo Hill is involved in the school improvement process. The committees include parents, teachers, and support staff. There is a core committee and three subcommittees that work on specific school improvement goals and activities. This committee helps coordinate all school improvement activities. The school improvement process at Soo Hill includes broad-based input from parents, community members, teachers, administrators, other school employees, and students.

## **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAM STRUCTURE**

### **School Improvement Core Committee**

Kelly LaMarche, Chairperson  
Margie Schafer  
Karen Beattie  
Ramona Brandt  
Kristy Robinette  
Renee Loman  
Paulette Wickham  
Mike Beveridge  
Lin VanEffen  
PTO

### **Crisis**

Mike Beveridge, Chairperson  
Karin Beveridge  
Melissa Hanson      Kristy Robinette  
Pat Gannon          Becky Leonoff  
Ramona Brandt      Paulette Wickham  
Mary Smith  
Karen Beattie

### **School Wellness- Celebration / Sunshine**

Karin Beveridge, Chairperson of Staff Functions  
Karen Beattie, Chairperson of Student Functions  
Kristy Robinette, Co-Chairperson of Student Functions  
Melissa Hanson, Chairperson of Wellness Functions  
Deb Warren                      Karen Tryan  
Joanne Hebert                  Renee Loman  
Kathy Pearson                  Patty Valiquette  
Gail Johnson                    Deb O'Connell  
Jessica Schroeder              Alycia Chernick  
Mary Smith                      Sue LaPine  
Mary Zuidema                  Ruth O'Toole  
Pat Gannon                      Lynn Trudeau  
Darcy Winkowski                PTO

### **Rules and Procedures/ MIBLSI**

Darcy Winkowski      Jessica Schroeder  
Becky Leonoff          Heidi Miron  
Melisaa Hanson        Kelly LaMarche  
Margie Schafer        Sue LaPine  
Ramona Brandt

## **Technology**

Karin Beveridge      Deb Warren      Heidi Miron      Joanne Hebert  
Lynn Trudeau      Ruth O'Toole      Sandy Motto

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO PARENTS**

We wish to thank all of you for your volunteer time and for your support of building-wide fundraisers as well as individual classroom projects. The following purchases/activities have been made possible due to P.T.O. support.

- Library books
- Test disks to support the Accelerated Reader Program
- Library supplies
- Field trips
- Assignment notebooks for 3-5 graders
- Homework Folders
- School yearbook
- CDs for Kindergarten and Fourth Grade Videos
- Classroom supplies
- Celebration committee events
- Rewards and treats
- Special Holiday Celebration Events
- MEAP Snacks
- Assemblies
- Imagination Station
- Brain Pop Computer Program
- Reading Month Activities
- Behavior Awards