

Hudson Students Shatter Challenging Student Achievement Goals! By Roark Horn, Superintendent

Each year, the Hudson Board of Education provides an Annual Progress Report on student achievement to the learning community. This report is packed with information on how Hudson students achieved in areas such as standardized testing, ACT scores, graduation rates, drop out rates, and district student achievement goals during the prior school year. The Annual Progress Report for the 2008-2009 school year will be completed in September, but we already know that the news on student achievement at Hudson last year was outstanding and, frankly, we wanted to share that information as soon as possible with the community!

For the 2008-2009 school year, the School Improvement Advisory Committee recommended, and the School Board approved, continuing to set goals based on targeted student achievement and historical student trends. Although these goals are more difficult to reach than proficiency goals on standardized tests, it was felt that they would better represent student learning in Hudson's taught curriculum. These goals are assessed by the Measures of Academic Performance (MAP) test. According to MAP, if 60% of students attain targeted growth in any area, the group is significantly exceeding the norms.

In 2008-2009, 74% of Hudson students in grades 3-8 attained targeted growth in reading, surpassing the district goal of 70%. In math, 76% of 3-8 grade students achieved targeted growth last year, shattering the district goal of 65%. Hudson students in 3-8 continued this amazing trend in science when they achieved a growth of 87%, far exceeding the district's ambitious goal of 75%! It is truly remarkable that even though the district set goals above the high levels recommended by the MAP test, the 3-8 grade students were able to exceed, and in some cases smash, these high goals!

The Hudson Schools also measure student progress in MAP and set goals at the ninth and tenth grade levels. For the 2008-2009 school year, goals for these students in reading and math were to meet or exceed the 60% targeted growth level that MAP says means that students are significantly exceeding the norms. Historical information indicated that these would be very ambitious goals, and indeed 9-10 students were not able to achieve this percentage in reading, but did exceed it in math with 62%.

As we look ahead to the 2009-2010 school year, the Advisory Committee and the Board have already set the goals for this year. At the high school level, they would again like to see 9-10 students get to the 60% level of targeted growth in reading and math. At the 3-8 level, they have set the bar at 70% of students meeting or exceeding targeted growth for reading and math, and 75% for science. Additionally, they have added some "watch" goals for targeted growth in 3-8 science; since MAP has only recently begun providing this information it was decided to leave those at the 60% level until historical information can be built.

The Annual Progress Report contains other measures of achievement as well. Patrons of the district can be very proud that once again there were zero dropouts during 2008-

2009, a trend that has been ongoing for years! Also, 95% of the senior class indicated that they intended to pursue post secondary education, and 100% of those seniors completed a core program of 4 years of English, and three years each of science, math, and social studies. Furthermore, 81 Hudson sophomore, junior, and senior students took the ACT test last year, and 63% of them achieved a composite of 20 or higher. For the class of 2009, 53 of 80 seniors (66%) took the ACT, and their average composite was 21.1, slightly below the state average of 22.4. The average ACT scores from the Class of 2009 in every area of the test also exceeded the solid averages of the Class of 2008.

As you can imagine, the Annual Progress Report contains a significant amount of additional information about student academic progress at Hudson. Things such as ITBS and ITED scores for the last several years are included and disaggregated by subgroups. Although there are always areas in which we can improve, it is with great pride that Hudson remains a top academic school when all student achievement measures are considered. We encourage all patrons of the district to examine this information in the Annual Progress Report and contact building principals and/or the central office with any questions. It will be accessible on-line at the district website through a Department of Education link in the very near future, and copies will also be available in each district office.