



GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Promote Innovation → Maximize Potential → Embrace Community

South 2015-16 Annual Report

Introduction

For nearly nine decades, South High School has been a fixture in the Grosse Pointe Community. More than 80 classes of students have walked these halls and have left a lasting legacy that continues today. Grosse Pointe South is blessed with a fabulous teaching staff, and spectacular support from parents and students that are fully committed to excellence in all facets of their educational experience. For these and other reasons, South continues to be recognized as a national lighthouse high school.



South's wonderful combination of amazing educators and exceptional parental support has resulted in great accomplishments over the years. South is consistently ranked as one of the top high schools in the state and nation by U.S. World News, The Washington Post, and Newsweek. In 2015, South was recognized by the Daily Beast as the #2 traditional high school in Michigan and is ranked #4 in the state by Newsweek for 2016. Our building has steadily improved in all standardized testing areas on the ACT and SAT exams, with our composite score increasing to 25.0 this last year! In fact, last spring's test score is the highest test score our building has achieved in the school's history. By comparison, in 1991, only our top college bound students were tested and our building composite score was 23.3. We are proud of our historic growth as it represents our commitment to excellence and to educating all our students including those with disabilities and from disadvantaged backgrounds. Additionally, we made tremendous strides in closing the racial achievement gap in reading, writing, science and social studies. Each year, approximately 98% of South students continue to institutions of higher learning with many attending some of the highest ranking universities across the nation.

While we are proud of our academic achievements and scores on standardized tests, what makes South truly special is the diversity of our accomplishments in areas that cannot be quantified by test scores. The school has a rich athletic tradition boasting scores of state championships and the participation of more than 60% of our student body in athletics annually. South was recognized by MaxPreps as the best high school athletic program in the State of Michigan for the 2011-12 school year. Our girl's athletic program was also recognized as the top program in the state by *USA Today* in 2014. We currently have 42 former South athletes competing in NCAA Division I schools, including 7 at Ivy League schools.

The fine and performing arts programs excel as well, modeling excellence in art, band, orchestra and one of the best choir programs in the nation. We have over 50 clubs and extra-curricular activities to meet the diverse needs of our student population. South has a nationally recognized student publications program, *The Tower*, that produces a newspaper each week. We also have the State's only high school solar car team. The team recently placed 7th in the country at nationals. We even have a robotics team that provides real life, hands-on STEM experience. Through these and other opportunities, the school is fully committed to providing a comprehensive high school experience.

As we embark on another school year, we do so understanding that we must continue to move the school forward. We will build upon the incredible foundation laid by previous generations and work to keep South on the cutting edge of 21st century education. Furthermore, we must help students recognize that it is not sufficient for them to aspire to be the best *IN* the world. Rather, we need them to aspire to be the best *FOR* the world. The standards remain high as we are collectively committed to keeping South one of the premier high schools in the nation that is a model of inclusion and excellence for all. We look forward to another great year, adding to the long tradition of distinction at Grosse Pointe South High School.

Mission Statement

Grosse Pointe South High School is a community of individuals who work in partnership to provide a broad based program of academics, athletics, and activities for ALL students. It is the dedication of those individuals that provides the foundation for student success and excellence in all their endeavors.

Student Average Attendance Rate: 95.8%

Parent-Teacher Conference Participation:

2015-16
97.5% (1,591 students)

2014-15
97.1% (1,613 students)

MDE Scorecard

South received a Yellow designation on the 2016 MDE Scorecard (replacing AYP).

Dual Enrollment:

11th & 12th graders enrolled concurrently in H.S. & post-secondary classes: 3 students

Completion/Graduation Rate:

High school students who graduate in 4 years
Class of 2015 96.45%

Dropout Rate:

Percentage of students who do not complete GPPS H.S. program
Class of 2015 (5 students)
1.18%

Retention Rate:

District average (100% of high school enrollment minus high school dropout rate) 98.82%

Earned Credit by Test-Out of a Course:

26 students

Assignment of Studies

The Board has determined attendance areas and students shall be expected to attend school within that area. A parent may request a transfer or appeal a placement decision on behalf of their student.

The principal shall be responsible for assigning students to classes. In the elementary schools, the principal, in determining the grade level for any new student, may take into consideration the previous schooling of the student but may assign the student to a lower grade level or higher grade level, if in the principal's judgment such an assignment would be in the best interest of the student. In middle school and high school students will be assigned to counselors, classes and instructors by the building principal.

The district also has in place policies and guidelines which guide promotion and retention.

Nondiscrimination Statement

Grosse Pointe Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Stefanie Hayes,
Director of Student Services
389 St. Clair
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
(313) 432-3851
Stefanie.Hayes@gpschools.org

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit:
<http://wdcrocolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

Core Curriculum

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's core curriculum is developed under the auspices of the Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), a group of teachers, parents, students, and administrators who meet monthly. The core curriculum is based upon state standards in all subjects and extends beyond those by incorporating exemplary local and national standards. Reports of the curriculum committees, which are submitted first to the EPLC then to the Board of Education, include recommendations regarding assessment, professional development, integration of technology, and differentiated instruction to accommodate academic diversity as well as the curriculum itself. The district also offers a wide array of advanced placement and challenging enrichment courses and a comprehensive special education program.

During the 2014-15 school year, EPLC led the curriculum review for adolescent health, business, social studies and library/media. Teachers doing the review examined assessments, textbook usage, and alignment to Michigan Department of Education requirements. 6th thru 12th grade social studies and adolescent health curricula are still under development.

During the 2015-16 school year, the following curricular areas began the review process:

- K-12 Mathematics
- K-12 Science
- K-12 Art
- 6-12 Counseling
- K-12 Physical Education
- 6-12 Inter-Departmental Technology
- 6-12 TV Production

District wide professional development is part of a comprehensive plan that uses teacher choice as well as mandatory training in areas identified by our district professional development team.



School Improvement Plan

Per the state of Michigan, our data from last spring's M-STEP exam does not produce viable results for actions steps to be taken (baseline data; proficiency levels, etc.). Furthermore, the state has changed from ACT to SAT, allowing us an opportunity to realign our curriculum and assessments and establish new baseline data and target goals.

Our vision is for departments to create SMART Goals that are targeted at supporting our transition to the SAT with a focus on literacy across all content areas. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will develop goals that outline systemic targeted instruction, coupled with formative assessments to progress monitor student achievement. PLCs will continually reflect on data from our locally developed formative assessments and adjust instruction and planning as needed.

To further support and validate department goals, summative data from the SAT will be used to validate our actions as departments and PLCs. The PSAT will be given on October 19th to all students in grades 9-11. Data from this test will be examined in December by PLCs where goals and action steps may be adjusted and/or preliminary growth targets will be established. All students in grades 9-11 will be tested again on April 11th on the PSAT/SAT.



STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (cont.)

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN ONE OR MORE AP COURSES								
YEAR	GRADE 9		GRADE 10		GRADE 11		GRADE 12	
	# and % of Students		# and % of Students		# and % of Students		# and % of Students	
2015-16	2	0.5%	169	40.7%	241	57.0%	208	56.5%
2014-15	1	0.2%	140	32.6%	208	55.6%	197	46.7%
2013-14	1	0.2%	129	33.3%	233	54.2%	245	57.8%

RESULTS OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) TESTS *			
Year	Number of Tests Taken	Number of Tests Passed	Percentage of Tests Passed
2015-16	1,167	810	69.4%
2014-15	1,045	773	74.0%
2013-14	1,167	856	73.4%

- Passing an Advanced Placement Test means becoming eligible for early college credit before high school graduation.
- There were 25 AP courses offered at Grosse Pointe South High School in 2014-15.

2015-16 ACT RESULTS 12 th GRADE STUDENTS						
	Number Tested	English Mean Score	Math Mean Score	Reading Mean Score	Science Mean Score	Composite Mean Score
South	375	25.2	23.9	25.4	24.7	25.0
GP District	711	24.3	23.0	24.3	23.7	24.0
Michigan	115,454	19.9	19.9	20.7	20.5	20.3
Nation	2,090,342	20.1	20.6	21.3	20.8	20.8

2014-15 SAT RESULTS 12 th GRADE STUDENTS				
	Number Tested	Critical Reading Mean Score	Math Mean Score	Writing Mean Score
South	50	607	627	591
GP District	76	616.6	629.4	597.5
Michigan	3,765	594	609	585
Nation	1,698,521	495	511	484

M-STEP MME SCIENCE				M-STEP MME SOCIAL STUDIES			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
2015-16	56% (33%)	57%	56%	2015-16	69% (43%)	69%	70%
2014-15	54% (29%)	52%	55%	2014-15	73% (44%)	73%	72%

Spring 2016 M-STEP MME TEST Grade 11		
Test	Black, Not of Hispanic Origin	% Tested
Science	24%	97%
Social Studies	33%	96%

M-STEP / MME Data is not reported by other Racial/Ethnic minority groups, Economically Disadvantaged or Special Education because no other group is large enough to report M-STEP results without revealing the identity of individual students.

FERPA Notice

The Grosse Pointe Public School System may, upon request, release the following directory information: student name, grade level, graduation date, height and weight if an athlete, participation in school activities, honors and awards, photographs and videos of students in school activities, and student name, addresses and telephone numbers when requested by military recruiters. GPPS also publishes student information via school sponsored or school-related media, including activities of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education. Parents or students, 18 years or older, who do not wish this information made public should click the FERPA directory information button during K-12 online registration.

