

REMINDER

Virtual Curriculum/Academic Committee Meeting | Monday, March 22 | 11 a.m.

**Curriculum/
Academic
Committee
Recap**

Over the last decade, the District has experienced significant variance in graduation rates due to the closure and transfer of schools to the State takeover district, the Education Achievement Authority (EAA). During the February Curriculum/Academic Committee Meeting, Superintendent Vitti presented on DPSCD's history of graduation rates and strategies on how the district will improve its graduation rates, which includes:

- ★ Overhauling credit recovery guidelines and practices.

- ★ Retraining school administrators and other staff on cohort management practices
- ★ Improved data systems for early intervention and supports for off-track students
- ★ Internal graduation and dropout audits to prevent and address inflation strategies

For additional details and meeting minutes, please visit the Board Docs page at detroitk12.org/Board.

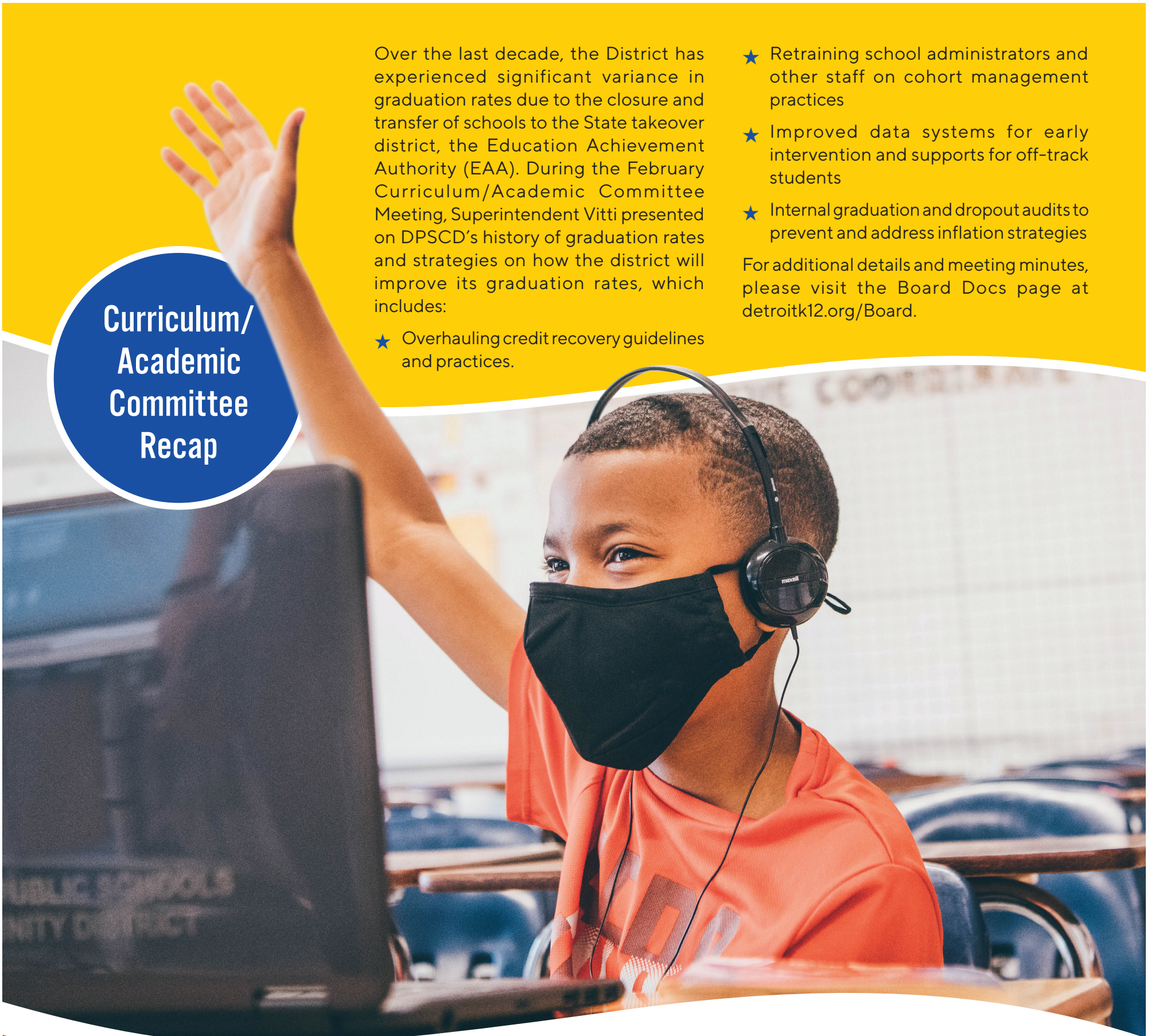
Make Math Matter Social Media Challenge

The Make Math Matter (M3) Challenge is for students in grades 3-12 with the goal to bridge the gap between school and the community by using social media. DPSCD will kick off the monthly challenge on its social media channels (@detroitk12) beginning March 1 by encouraging students to create TikTok videos and explain how math shows up in their world.

To participate in the challenge students must:

- 1. Submit videos via TikTok using the hashtag #DPSCDMakeMathMatter**
- 2. Finalize the submission at <https://bit.ly/DPSCDMakeMathMatter>**

For rules, deadlines, and more information, visit detroitk12.org/MathMatters.



Academic Calendar

To view the complete 2020-2021 Academic Calendar, visit detroitk12.org.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
MARCH 2021					APRIL 2021					MAY 2021				
1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	PTC-h	18	19	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	PTC	25	26	19	Q3	Q4	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31			26	RC	28	29	30	H				

PTC-h Parent/Teacher Conferences - High School
PTC Parent/Teacher Conferences

S Schools Closed-No Students
S Semester/Quarter Boundary

RC Report Card Day
H Public Holiday



Reading the Orton-Gillingham Way

DPSCD has implemented the renowned Orton-Gillingham literacy teaching style. The program uses a direct, multi-sensory way to teach literacy to children who have difficulty with reading, writing, and spelling. DPSCD has adopted this approach to teaching phonics to students who are reading and performing below grade level. To further meet the needs of our students, DPSCD partnered with two organizations, Brainspring who is tutoring our K-8th graders, and Beyond Basics who is tutoring our 10th-11th graders, to supply even more help for our scholars.

DPSCD has over 8900 students enrolled in the program where Orton-Gillingham trained Academic Interventionists and paraeducators are tutoring K-9 grade students in all elementary-middle and high schools. Students in this program receive 220 minutes of tutoring each week.

In addition, DPSCD is aiming to enroll an additional 1000 students in our partnership program.

- ★ The Brainspring partnership tutors are working with K-3 grade students in eight elementary-middle schools. Students in this program work with highly trained professionals in small groups of three and receive tutoring twice a week for 45 minutes.
- ★ The Beyond Basics partnership is working with 10th and 11th grade students in ten high schools. Students in this program receive one on one tutoring every day for one hour per day.

We are beyond excited to service the students of Detroit helping them to become great readers so they can be great leaders!

Yabla Helps Students Learn Foreign Languages Online

DPSCD World Language Teachers are now using Yabla, an interactive online platform that contains a library of authentic and appropriate television programs, news broadcasts, commercials and music selections, in their virtual classrooms to help students gain proficiency in their languages of study. Students can highlight unfamiliar words, play games and check for understanding all while increasing their language proficiency. Yabla is available to students taking Spanish, French, and Chinese. All are encouraged to connect with their teachers on signing up for a free account!



Upcoming Board Meetings Schedule

DPSCD Board Meetings held in September will be hosted virtually via Zoom or telephone. For updated meeting info, please visit the Board Meeting calendar at detroitk12.org/board. An Executive Order is in place that doesn't allow for more than 10 people at a planned event. A board meeting is a planned event. We are following all applicable Executive Orders.

Curriculum/Academic Committee Meeting (Virtual)
 Monday, March 22, 11 a.m.

Finance Committee Meeting (Virtual)
 Friday, March 26, 9 a.m.

Board Community Meeting (Virtual)
 Wednesday, April 7, 5:30 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting, Renaissance High School
 Tuesday, April 13, 5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Exceptional Student Education Parent Meetings



Join DPSCD Board Vice President Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill and Deputy Superintendent Iranetta Wright to discuss current ESE student and family supports, interventions, and enrichment activities. Attendees will be able to ask questions and discuss strategies to improve the learning experience and support for exceptional students.

Dates: Wednesday, April 21

Time: 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Join by computer:
<http://bit.ly/ESEParentMeeting>

Join by telephone: (313) 462-2305, Webinar ID: 365 425 449#

Save the Date: DPSCD's 84th Annual DIA Student Art Exhibition

The DPSCD-DIA annual student art exhibition is the longest running partnership within the District where K-12 students have the opportunity to showcase their works of art in a professional exhibition setting. Due to COVID-19, this year's exhibition will take place virtually airing live on April 24 and remain available for viewing through May 30. Please save the date to support our students during this prestigious district event. Stay updated by visiting detroitk12.org/FineArts for updates.



"Flower Power" by Morgan Covington, Cooke STEM Academy

March is Reading Month – Let's Celebrate

Detroit Public Schools Community District is celebrating National Reading Month. In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday, March is designated as National Reading Month – a month to motivate Americans of all ages to read every day. Below are some ways you can encourage and inspire joyful reading this month.

myON READER APPLICATION

Renaissance myON® Reader is a student-centered, personalized literacy environment that gives students access to more than 6,000 enhanced digital books. Titles are dynamically matched to each individual student's interests, grade and Lexile® reading level. Combined with a suite of close reading tools and embedded supports, myON Reader fosters student engagement and achievement. Students can use this application to select texts to read for leisure or learn more about the topics covered in their ELA classes within the EL Education curriculum. All DPSCD students have free access to this application through Clever. Visit <https://www.detroitk12.org/Page/9158> for directions to utilize Clever and myOn®.

STORYLINE ONLINE

Storyline Online (<https://storylineonline.net/>) is a website with read-alouds performed by actors, actresses, and other celebrities such as Angela Bassett, Kevin Costner, and Oprah Winfrey. Each book also comes with a lesson plan and accompanying questions to engage students after listening to the story.

AT HOME ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Visit Bit.ly: <https://bit.ly/2NuQhVm> and download this calendar to unlock 31 days of reading fun! The March is Reading Month calendar provides a wealth of interesting facts, books, and activities that you and your child will enjoy. March Calendar

Look for additional exciting National Reading Month activities from your student's school!



ELEMENTARY – MIDDLE SCHOOL

On the Rise in Pre-K

DPSCD's Pre-K students have an exciting curriculum to look forward to this spring!

MARCH will have us moving the world! Buildings will be our focus. In this study, children will compare different structures and their characteristics, discover how people construct and use buildings and design and create their own model buildings and communities.

APRIL brings Reduce Reuse Recycle in which children will explore what happens to trash after it is thrown away and the concepts of reducing, reusing and recycling at home and in their community.

MAY will begin the exploration of the Balls Study. Most children love playing with balls. They throw them, catch them, kick them, dribble them and roll them with seemingly endless delight. As they play with balls, children learn how natural forces such as gravity and friction affect how balls move. They also learn how to make balls, marbles and other rolling objects change speed and direction.

No matter the study, the day or the time, our Pre-K students are always having fun and learning as they rise!



HIGH SCHOOL

DPSCD High School Students to Participate in Online Language Exchange

This spring select DPSCD High School students learning Japanese will practice their written and spoken language skills with high school students in Japan. This short term, intensive online exchange is offered through the Shiga-Michigan Assembly Project (SMAP) who created this opportunity as an answer to students' inability to travel to Japan due to the COVID-19 crisis. Participating students will meet virtually with students from Japan once a month to talk and exchange information about their country and culture. In between the monthly virtual meets, students will post and respond to a message board on a variety of topics.



The Pink Panthers All Girls Robotics Team, A Robotics Powerhouse



In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3 -7, we are spotlighting Kavita Sadwal, teacher and high school robotics coach at Detroit International Academy for Young Women.

Question: How long have you been coaching robotics at Detroit International Academy for Young Women?

Sadwal: I have been coaching DIA Team 2048 since 2013.

Q: What's the most exciting thing about coaching to your robotics team?

Sadwal: Our team is an all-girls team.

Every year when students join the robotics team, they, just like any other rookie students, have little idea about the wealth of knowledge and life skills that they will be acquiring. I am always fascinated by how the once so shy and not so confident young ladies gradually discover their passion of science and learning, while gaining confidence and displaying leadership, respect and kindness. As team members, the students build a strong relationship of sisterhood and are always there for one another, overcoming challenges and celebrating small accomplishments of their team tasks. It is always great to see them working together on the robot and problem solving during the competitions.

Q: Has your team set certain goals for this year?

Sadwal: This year our goal is to compete in FIRST Robotics Innovation Challenge. The team will identify a real-world problem, design a solution, build a business model, and deliver a pitch to compete with other teams for judged awards.

Q: Have there been many challenges with coaching high school robotics this year because of the COVID-19 crisis?

Sadwal: Because of COVID-19 crisis it has been challenging to recruit new members and to keep them motivated. The students have not had the opportunity to meet face to face and participate in pre-season workshops that are offered by MEZ (Michigan Engineering Zone) every season. Our team meets every Saturday on Microsoft Teams, where we discuss the team organization, season challenge and meet with our professional mentors. MEZ has come up with exciting opportunities for the students in the form of online workshops, camps and offering MEZ -U of M student mentors support for the students and coaches.

Give Ms. Sadwal a shout out and tag DPSCD on our social media channels using @detroitk12 and #TeacherAppreciationWeek.

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**HOMEWORK
HOTLINE
833.466.3978**



The DPSCD Board of Education Curriculum/Academic Committee Members

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Committee Chair

Dr. Deborah Hunter-Harvill
Committee Member

Georgia Lemmons
Committee Member

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Detroitk12.org