



# Rebuilding DPSCD Brick by Brick



# Where We Started

As Michigan's largest public education system, Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) is often in the spotlight. We're proud to share our trajectory – where we started, how we've worked to overcome adversity and where we're headed.

- In 2017, DPSCD returned to local control with seven-member locally elected school board.
- Appointed the second longest standing superintendent, Dr. Nikolai Vitti, to be a change agent for the DPSCD.
- Engaged the community, teachers, and students to establish a Blueprint Strategic Plan and use it as a guidepost to rebuild DPSCD.

## Feds: 12 Detroit principals stole \$1M in kickback scheme

Tresa Baldas, Kat Stafford, Kathleen Gray and Ann Zaniewski, Detroit Free Press

Published 10:49 a.m. ET March 29, 2016 | Updated 4:36 p.m. ET March 31, 2016

## DPS inspector's report reveals more theft, fraud cases

Christine Ferretti, The Detroit News | Published 4:04 p.m. ET Aug. 3, 2016

The New York Times

## *Crumbling, Destitute Schools Threaten Detroit's Recovery*

## Detroit worst in math, reading scores among big cities

Shawn D. Lewis | The Detroit News

Published 12:01 a.m. ET Oct. 28, 2015 | Updated 4:40 p.m. ET Oct. 28, 2015

## Snyder signs \$617M DPS bailout

Jonathan Oosting and Shawn D. Lewis, | Published 3:39 p.m. ET June 2, 2016 | Updated 5:53 p.m. ET June 21, 2016

## Detroit teacher sick-out closes 94 schools

Lori Higgins and Keith Matheny, Detroit Free Press | Published 6:01 a.m. ET May 2, 2016 | Updated 2:41 p.m. 2016, 2016

## Detroit Public Schools will be completely broke by June. Here's how things got to this point.

By Tara Golshan | Updated May 2, 2016 7am EDT

# Beginning to Rise

## Blueprint 2020 Priorities

- **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT**  
Dramatically improve the academic experience of all students to ensure they are college and career ready.
- **TRANSFORMATIVE CULTURE**  
Transform our culture so that students, families, community members, and staff feel safe, respected, and connected.
- **WHOLE CHILD COMMITMENT**  
Champion a whole child approach that unlocks students' full potential.
- **EXCEPTIONAL TALENT**  
Build an excellent team of dedicated staff to serve our students.
- **RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP**  
Manage and deploy our resources responsibly, transparently, and equitably to support our students' success.

## Approach to Driving Improvement

- If you set ambitious, feasible and highly measurable common goals for school improvement with aligned accountability frameworks;
- And if you centralize and optimize the budget and allocation plan to align with that framework;
- And if you aggressively pursue fully staffed status;
- And if you adopt and develop teachers using highly aligned instructional materials;
- And if you build capacity in the principalship to implement and monitor well-defined school improvement strategies;
- **Then performance will improve.**





## Outstanding Achievement

- Outperformed State, County, and City Charters on M-STEP Improvement in 2023
- Achieved highest literacy proficiency in over a decade, including the highest ever College and Career Readiness rate in ELA
- Exited 35 schools from state Partnership status
- Improved graduation rate post-pandemic by nearly 10% points
- Expanded access to accelerated courses, including AP and Dual Enrollment courses available across schools
- Reestablished Gifted and Talented Education
- Launched a dedicated Newcomer program for recently arrived immigrant students
- Invested millions of dollars annually on high quality curriculum materials and classroom libraries
- Added Academic Interventionists, structured literacy intervention programs and tutoring funds across schools



## Transformative Culture

- Established PTAs and SACs across schools
- Added a Parent Outreach Coordinator role at each school
- Introduced a consistent process for volunteering and increased volunteerism
- Brought in Faith-Based partnerships to schools
- Introduced Parent Academy reaching hundreds of families per year
- Created a family resource center
- Launched “Let’s Read” to bolster community involvement to support literacy
- Adopted Anti-Racist and Sanctuary District resolutions
- Revised the Code of Conduct with stakeholder input with a focus on behavioral supports and restorative practice
- Introduced Parent Listening sessions and 5 Things Weekly Newsletter to make direct connections with families
- Built a student and staff Hub (intranet) to share knowledge, information, and promote best practices, students, and staff



## Whole Child Commitment

- Restored and maintained Art or Music and Physical Education in all schools
- Restored recess
- Expanded athletics programming K-12 and participation in Special Olympics
- Offered student mental health services at all schools
- Added counselors and nurses to every school
- Launched Health Hubs districtwide to provide mental health, dental, vision and medical support to families, along with basic needs
- Introduced a Student Leadership Council with two Student Board Seats
- Expanded access to STEM and Social Studies Enrichment, like oratorical and debate
- Introduced Cultural Passport and reinvested in Evening of Fine Arts
- Increased breakfast and lunch participation districtwide
- Expanded school gardens and farm to table food programs



## Exceptional Talent

- Added hundreds of school-based positions while drastically reducing vacancies, including at hard to staff schools
- Increased all staff salaries, including teacher salaries by an average of ~20K and \$15K bonuses for ESE teachers
- Built a grow-your-own certification program, On the Rise Academy, responsible for developing over 100 new teachers
- Introduced teacher leadership roles, including Master Teachers and New Teacher Mentors
- Launched a professional development catalog with tens of thousands of unique enrollments each year
- Received national and state recognition for excellence via the Urban Superintendent of the Year, MI Teacher of the Year, and MI Social Worker of the Year



## Responsible Stewardship

- Reduced Financial Review Committee Oversight
- Achieved 0 Audit Exceptions
- Adopted a balanced budget for 7 consecutive years
- Recognized as a model district for COVID relief funding nationally
- Allocated \$840M for facilities investments
- Went from 6:1 to 1:1 on student to device ratio
- Invested \$61.5M in security systems, PA systems, and network improvements
- Reduced average vendor payment from 90 days to ~20
- Adopted new data systems, including an upgraded Student Information System, best in class data systems and new data collection mechanisms to assess progress
- Introduced innovative district vehicle program to serve homeless and ESE students while reducing costs

# Still Rising

The headlines about DPSCD have changed since 2016 – and the results have changed, too. We still have significant work to do, but our students are rising and the future is bright.

DETROIT

### Detroit Renaissance High School becomes home to national chess champions



Marina Johnson

Detroit Free Press

Published 2:38 p.m. ET April 7, 2023



Students Rise. We All Rise.

### THE BOND BUYER

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HOW WE USE: The Latest

Detroit Public Schools get two-notch upgrade to Ba3

Budgeting credited for Brookhaven, N.Y., upgrade to ...

Charter schools benefit as access to cheaper financing increases

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### Detroit Public Schools get two-notch upgrade to Ba3

### New Detroit program puts support staff on the fast track to become teachers

By Lori Higgins | Oct 13, 2021 7:17pm EDT

### Detroit students improve reading, math scores across all tested grades

Jennifer Chambers, The Detroit News Published 10:20 a.m. ET Aug. 29, 2019 | Updated 6:20 p.m. ET Aug. 29, 2019

### Detroit's Candice Jackson Named Michigan Teacher of the Year

Detroit Public Schools Community District Restores Art Programming at Detroit School of Arts and Feeder Schools

*In partnership with 24 Detroit-area organizations, DPSCD is investing in the arts – and setting the Detroit School of Arts on a path to becoming the premier performing arts school in the tri-county area.*

### Detroit Superintendent Nikolai Vitti named nation's top urban educator

By Lori Higgins | Oct 20, 2022 8:00pm EDT

Detroit Public Schools Community District students did better than expected in the M-STEP testing

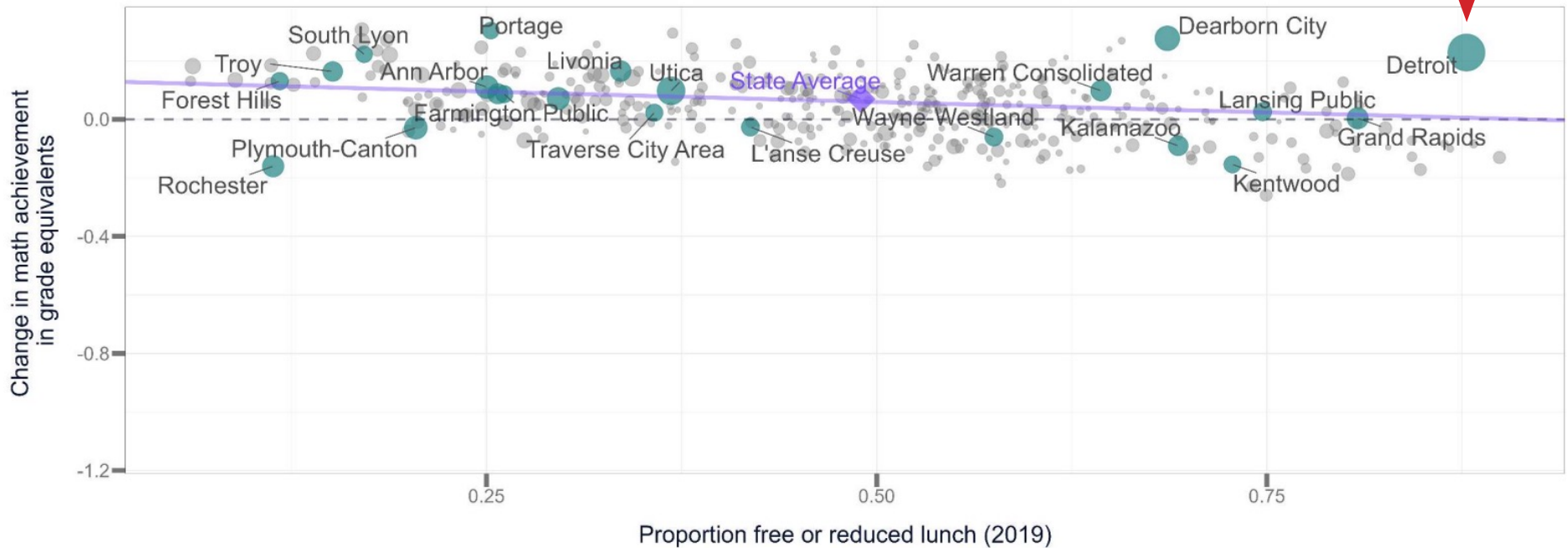
Scholastic and the Council of the Great City Schools Names Detroit Public Schools Community District as the Richard M. Robinson Literacy Champion



# Change in Math Achievement 2022-2023

The District has made significant strides in math proficiency, despite having one of the highest populations of students eligible for free or reduced lunch.

**Change in Math Achievement 2022-2023  
by proportion FRPL in Michigan districts**



Source: Education Recovery Scorecard, by Harvard CEPR and Stanford SEDA.

Notes: All estimates are based on published state assessment results, which have been rescaled to grade equivalents using state scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

For historical comparability, the proportion of students receiving free or reduced price lunch reflects the estimated number of students in households with incomes below 185% of the federal poverty level in Census data. Some districts may have higher rates of federally subsidized lunch recipients due to the community eligibility provision. The sample of districts shown have been limited to districts with reliable estimates.

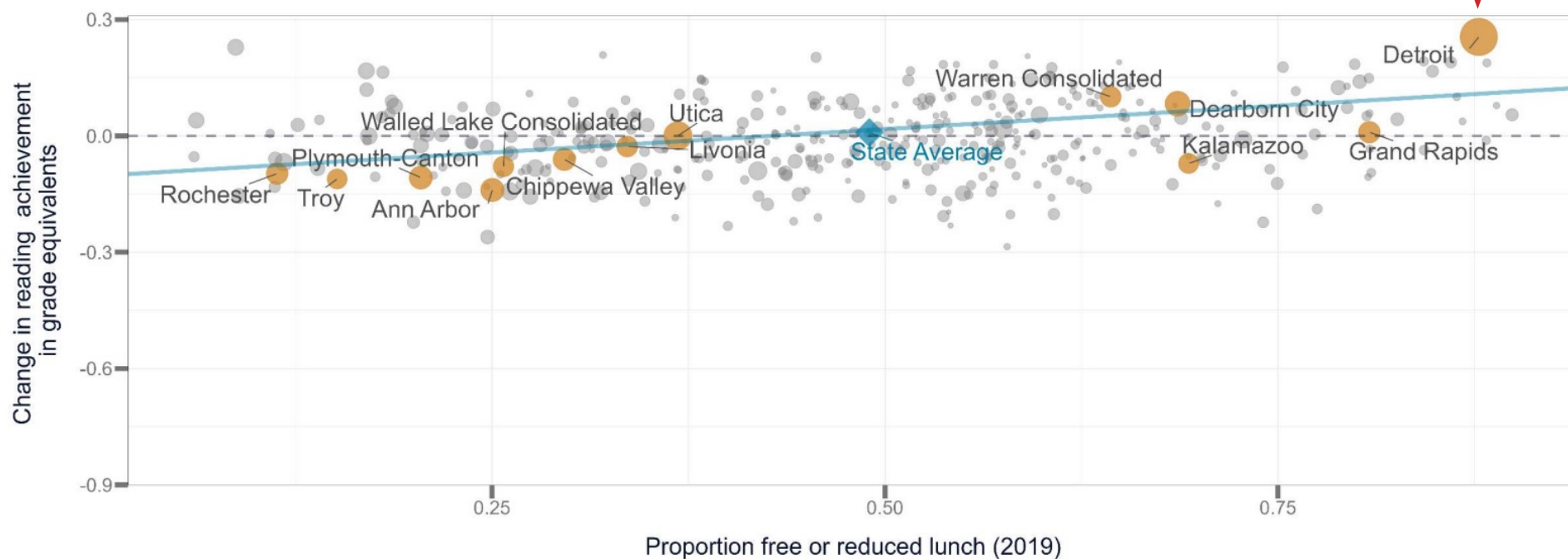
Labeled points represent districts with at least 600 tested students per grade. The regression line displays the overall trend within the state.

For details on the methodology see <https://edopportunity.org/methods>.

# Change in Reading Achievement 2022-2023

The District has also made strong progress in reading achievement, outpacing the state average.

**Change in Reading Achievement 2022-2023  
by proportion FRPL in Michigan districts**



Source: Education Recovery Scorecard, by Harvard CEPR and Stanford SEDTA.

Notes: All estimates are based on published state assessment results, which have been rescaled to grade equivalents using state scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

For historical comparability, the proportion of students receiving free or reduced price lunch reflects the estimated number of students in households with incomes below 185% of the federal poverty level in Census data. Some districts may have higher rates of federally subsidized lunch recipients due to the community eligibility provision. The sample of districts shown have been limited to districts with reliable estimates.

Labeled points represent districts with at least 800 tested students per grade. The regression line displays the overall trend within the state.

For details on the methodology see <https://edopportunity.org/methods>.

# DPSCD 23-24 Legislative Agenda

- I. Equitable & adequate school aid.
  - Address hold harmless associated with local millage funding or increase per pupil funding to the highest generating per pupil amount.
  - Provide additional funding for students with greatest needs through weighted student formula, including ESE, ELL, and At-Risk through poverty status.
  - Establish reoccurring facility funding for school districts.
  - Remove all restrictions on state categorical funding.
- II. Remove all vestiges of emergency management, including the FRC, and statute language allowing for its possible return.
- III. Establish a statewide student database system to track enrollment, attendance, discipline issues, behavioral health needs, and student performance. Include a statewide employee database to track student performance, evaluations, and disciplinary history.
- IV. Provide greater flexibility for subject time allocation and high school course requirements to address intervention and career preparation.
- V. Remove “partnership school status” or lowest performing schools based on lowest 5% criteria and focus identification on failure to show improvement on both proficiency and growth models.
- VI. Require kindergarten attendance for students and families and increase family accountability for student attendance K-12.
- VII. Remove restrictions on school districts to prioritize minority vendors as contractors.





Students Rise. We All Rise.

Thank you for taking time to review a snapshot of DPSCD.  
Please visit [detroitk12.org](https://detroitk12.org) for more information on  
why developing equitable funding is not just a plea,  
all children deserve an excellent education.  
Join us, as we ensure all students rise!

DPSCD Blueprint 2027

