

Report: Reauthorization Visitation Review
 Academy: Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change
 Date: December 4-5, 2017

The visitation occurred at the Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change with three members on the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office (CSO) visitation team. The team had the opportunity to meet with and interview the school leadership team, two school board members and the School Improvement Team. The team was able to tour the facility and visit several classrooms to observe teaching and learning. We appreciate the open communication and transparency that was apparent during all of our interactions.

Visitation Findings

School Improvement Plan (SIP) and EdYes! School Systems Review	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<p>School Improvement Plan (SIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Academy staff and leadership are aware of the goals and activities of the SIP. They review these at monthly staff meetings. • The SIT is teacher led. • There is evidence the activity to use data (data folders). • The SIP team uses data to evaluate the effectiveness of their programs/activities. • The student work plans are very well implemented. This holds students accountable for their learning. • The school leader and staff use “Teach Point” to evaluate teacher effectiveness and reflection. • Staff professional development on trauma and poverty was very enlightening and helpful. • Study Island is working well for math and reading instruction. 	<p>School Improvement Plan (SIP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to determine how you can implement specials – art, music, etc. This would provide students opportunities to develop their skills in these areas. It would also provide an opportunity for teachers to have some prep time within the school day. • Continue efforts to ensure that students are mastering concepts before moving forward. Does completion of work cards ensure mastery and understanding of concepts presented? • Continue efforts to ensure that students are prepared for standardized tests.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The behavioral specialist has been helpful for several students. • The staff uses a common core checklist to record their use of standards. The NAMC aligned curriculum designed by Choice Schools is implemented. <p>EdYes! School Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidences cited are viable and evident. 	<p>EdYes! School Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to use this document to clarify what you are doing and what you could be doing to make improvements in student success.
<u>Facilities Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The facilities were well maintained and secure. • The facilities are overcrowded at this time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to explore how to meet your facility needs.
<u>Academy Culture Review</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a family, team, and collaborative culture in the academy. • Students are engaged, friendly, respectful, and appear to be learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue your search for processes that you can implement to on-board new students effectively. • Consider opportunities to provide specials – P.E., music, art, foreign language, etc. – to address student’s gifts in these areas.
<u>Mission Accomplishment</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental themes are built into many activities of the school – recycling, use of left over snacks, beach cleaning, fish project, and greenhouse. • The staff and board are very aware of the mission and support its continue implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None at this time.
<u>Website</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The website appears to be up to date and provides necessary information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider using this medium as well as others to market the positive educational programs you are making available.

Academy Internal Review

<u>Student Outcomes</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school leader and staff have a clear understanding of student successes and challenges. • There is an emphasis on data driven instruction – PLCs, data folders, work plans, M-STEP pre-testing preparation. • The curriculum used is aligned with the common core. • The school leader and staff believe they are making headway with student outcomes. They have a clear understanding that the influx of new students presents a challenge. The staff and school leader are working hard to meet the challenge. • The staff is making good use of Study Island and Khan Academy to provide extra help or advancement for students. • The school leader spends a lot of time in the classrooms. This provides her with a very good understanding of what is happening. • The staff has developed a positive process to add additional learning opportunities to the Montessori model that helps students better prepare for standardized tests. • There appears to be a good process in place to address the needs of tier 2 and tier 3 students. • There is a good process in place to help students take ownership of their learning and achievement. The students express desire to meet new goals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue efforts to understand what is necessary as student population grows and new staff is added to ensure that they are prepared to meet expectations that are in place.
<u>Governance and Leadership</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members believe that there is a clear understanding of their roles and the ESP roles. • Board members appreciate the student achievement and financial reports they receive. • Board members appreciate the competency of the school leader. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for the board to develop a strategic plan. • There is a need for more board training and development to help them understand the education environment and language. (school jargon) • As the board considers facility needs and opportunities, ensure you have a complete understanding of the academy’s financial position, including

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members appreciate the stability and skills of the academy staff. • Board members want to move forward and learn how they can be more effective. 	<p>current debt structure. It is important to have a reliable and reasonable understanding of what is affordable.</p>
<p>Resources and Support Systems</p>	
<p>Observations</p>	<p>Opportunities for Growth</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESP has provided a competent staff and continues to support them. • The ESP has provided a curriculum that meets the needs of the Montessori model and State standards, and standardized testing. • The ESP has provided adequate materials and technology for the classrooms. • The school leader has worked well to procure grants that support the school mission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ESP and board need to continue to work to have a clear understanding of the academy finances and budget process as they continue to understand how to best meet facility needs which may include moving to another building.

CSO Review of Overall Performance for Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change

<p>Contract Performance Report Review</p>	
<p>Observations</p>	<p>Opportunities for Growth</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAP growth targets met on 6/6 measures. • Combined MAP achievement percentile ranking has exceeded the 50th percentile target for the past two years. • Small class sizes influence some data- four grades under 10 FTE. • MSTEP proficiency percentages were 47% in ELA and 32% in math- both exceed Composite District averages.. • MSTEP average Student Growth Percentiles are above 40% in all areas- 55% in ELA and 50% in math. • Compliance remains at 100%. • MMAEC was designated as a Reward School by the MDE for 2015-16. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2017 MSTEP proficiency percentage in math went down about 10% from 2016. A good goal would be to get back to or exceed State and Resident District averages in math. • In 2016-17, MMAEC had the highest percentage, 35%, for Total Business and Administration expenditures in the CSO portfolio.

<u>School Support Team (SST) Updates</u>	
Observations	Opportunities for Growth
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMAEC remains a “Green” designated school based on academic and overall performance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the search for a possible new location so enrollment can increase. Begin to prepare for the PSAT 8/9 assessment for 8th grade students in the spring of 2019.

Overall Opportunities for Growth

- Do not let down on student academic preparation. With small numbers of students, data can change in a hurry.
- Track former MMAEC students’ performance in high school and make any necessary modifications to your program.

Current CSO Expectations in Consideration for Recommendation of Reauthorization. These are subject to change.

For: Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change

- Meet or exceed FSU CSO’s academic measures and goals.
- Continue to follow all charter contractual expectations.
- The CSO may have other academic and non-academic expectations as more information becomes available. All other contractual and policy standards must be met and maintained.
- NOT be designated as a Partnership, Priority, Comprehensive Support, low performing, etc. school by the State of Michigan.

Signed James K. Scholten
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