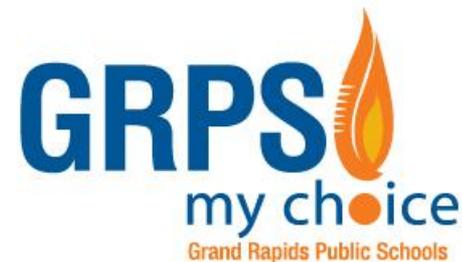


TRANSFORMATION
PLAN FOR

**QUALITY
CHOICE
SUSTAINABILITY**

**WE ARE BUILDING OUR
WE ARE FUTURE TOGETHER**



GRPS 101: Who We Are / Who We Serve

5th Largest School District in Michigan

17,000+ students

86%+ free/reduced lunch

25% Special education

20% English language learners

36% African American / 33% Hispanic / 22% Caucasian

70 countries represented

50+ languages spoken

3rd Largest Employer in Grand Rapids; 8th Largest in West Michigan

2,700+ employees (1,500 teachers)

\$265 Million Annual Expense Budget

\$210 Million General Operating

\$55 million Special Revenue (Special Ed, Food Service)

WHAT IS WORKING

ACADEMICS

Top Performing Schools in Michigan

- Blandford, Center for Economicology, Coit Creative Arts, City High-Middle School, Zoo School

Home to the Top Performing School in West Michigan; 2nd Best in State

- City High-Middle School; also ranked among Top 300 Schools in America by U.S. News & World Report

Top ACT Composite Gains in Region

- GR Montessori, Union, and City High

Home to the “Coolest Schools in America” by Parent & Child Magazine

- Zoo School (Blandford and Center for Economicology earned honorable mention)

Region’s Only PK-12 Tuition Free Montessori Schools

- Grand Rapids Montessori earned largest graduate rate gain in county; ranked among Top 300 Schools in America by US News & World Report
- North Park Montessori and GR Montessori rank among top performing in city

WHAT IS WORKING

ACADEMICS

“Free College” for GRPS Challenge Scholars

- Thanks to GR Community Foundation; Promise-like initiative, targeted at Harrison Park, Westwood Middle and Union High students

Regional Leader in Serving Hispanic/Latino Students and English Language Learners

- 16 schools designated as Language Centers; 170+ highly qualified, bilingual teachers

Largest Selection of “Theme Schools” and “Centers of Innovation”

- Customized curriculums and education programs designed around themes/college-career pathways
- CA Frost, City High-Middle, Center for Economicology, Coit Creative Arts Academy, Blandford School, Zoo School, (new) Gerald R. Ford Academic Center, Grand Rapids Montessori, North Park Montessori, Sherwood Park Global Studies Academy, and Southwest Community Campus
- Innovation Central High: Academy for Design and Construction, Academy of Modern Engineering, Academy of Health, Sciences and Technology, Academy of Business, Leadership and Entrepreneurship, and University Prep Academy

WHAT IS WORKING

OPERATIONS

Sound Fiscal Management

- GRPS is recognized as a “model” for right-sizing reforms and sound fiscal management
- GRPS is one of few urban districts in Michigan and beyond with a positive bond rating and fund balance. In 2011, GRPS bond rating improved from “negative” to “stable” by S&P, Fitch, & Moody’s

New, State of the Art Schools

- 10 new, state-of-the-art elementary and middle schools and improved Houseman Field
- 2 new schools built “tax free” – University Prep Academy and Blandford
- GRPS is a state and national leader in green built schools. 9 green-built schools (6 LEED certified)

Full Service Community Schools

- 4 state-of-the-art, full-service health and dental clinics Union, Ottawa, Creston, and Burton
- 10 KSSN “Community Schools” with social, health, mental health, and family support services

RESEARCH, PLANNING AND LISTENING

Five studies over four years inform today's Transformation Plan for Quality, Choice and Sustainability



QUALITY

Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2010-11

GRPS Academic Plan, first quarter 2012

Superintendent's Listening Tour



CHOICE

Phase II Building Improvement Plan, 2008-09

Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2010-11

Superintendent's Listening Tour



SUSTAINABILITY

Superintendent's Listening Tour, first quarter 2012

Cambridge Quality Review, third quarter 2012

OUR BELIEF

With individual effort, high expectations, and quality teaching, all children can achieve their academic potential.

OUR VISION

To become a world-class performing district with a diverse portfolio of top quality schools and educational talent, to meet the differing academic, social, and physical needs of every student with an unrelenting focus on high achievement, high expectations, and preparation for the 21st Century economy.



WEST MICHIGAN NEEDS GRPS SUCCESS

1 High-performing, sustainable city schools contribute to **economic growth** in West Michigan

2 High-performing, sustainable city schools produce a **quality workforce** for West Michigan

3 High-performing, sustainable city schools help attract and retain **business investment and jobs** in West Michigan

4 High-performing, sustainable city schools contribute to **quality of life** to attract and retain West Michigan families

5 High-performing, sustainable city schools reflect our community's commitment to the **next generation** to ensure they achieve their academic potential, and enter adulthood ready for college or career and the global marketplace.



GOALS



ACADEMICS

- Increase graduation rate
- Increase college readiness

ENVIRONMENT

- Increase schools at 70%+ capacity
- Increase schools with 21st century resources

CULTURE

- High expectations
- Accountability
- Customer service

SHAPING THE PLAN

THREE GUIDING VALUES



**FOCUS ON
CHILDREN**



**INVEST IN
WHAT WORKS**



**PROVIDE
STABILITY**

TRANSFORMATION PLAN FOR QUALITY, CHOICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

KEY ELEMENTS PHASE I

PK-8 / K-8

Expanding the number of K-8 schools

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

Reinvesting in our neighborhood schools

CENTERS OF INNOVATION

Pooling innovation, talent and resources on one campus

THEME SCHOOLS

Reinvesting and expanding our theme schools

TALENT RETENTION / RECRUITMENT

Recruiting and retaining the top educational talent

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

All GRPS schools, all the time – phased in approach

TWO STRONG HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TEAMS

Pool talent and resources for better opportunities

CENTRAL OFFICE REFORM

Restructure to better support schools, principals, teachers and support staff

CLOSING SCHOOLS/BUILDINGS

10 schools closed including one comprehensive HS

TRANSFORMATION PLAN FOR QUALITY, CHOICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

KEY ELEMENTS PHASE II

DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE NEW SCHOOL CHOICES

Museum School partnership with GR Public Museum, Kendall College/FSU, GVSU, City of Grand Rapids, and DDA. Located at Van Andel Museum Center and Archives/54 Jefferson. 6-12 grade.

International Baccalaureate Arts Academy partnership with GR Symphony, GVSU, and area arts organizations. PK-12 grade.

EXPANDING / KEEP REINVESTING IN THEME SCHOOLS

Maintain reinvestment and explore expansion of our theme schools

Explore expansion of Zoo School (6-8 grade)

Explore expansion of CA Frost Environmental Science Academy (adding 9-12 grade)

Explore expansion of Southwest Community Campus Dual Immersion (adding 9-12 grade)

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL RECLAMATION PROJECTS

Congress Elementary and Mulick Park Elementary

CENTRAL CAMPUS MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

In partnership with Downtown Grand Rapids Inc., develop master plan for Central campus. Highlights:

- Demolition of old City building
- Historic renovation/improvements to facilities
- Explore urban farm concept for schools and neighborhood. Erdkinder Montessori model; Centers of Innovation hands-on learning potential.
- Improving traffic flow / parking
- Landscape / beautification

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Phasing in Middle Schools in 2014-15; High Schools in 2015-26

TALENT RETENTION / RECRUITMENT

Recruiting and retaining the top educational talent

CENTRAL OFFICE REFORM

Restructure to better support schools, principals, teachers and support staff

**GRAND RAPIDS BOARD OF EDUCATION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED
TRANSFORMATION PLAN VERSION 3.0 – NOW WHAT?**

PROCESS / NEXT STEPS



IMPLEMENTATION 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR

SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTENING TOUR

STATE OF OUR SCHOOLS – MARCH 15

PLANNING / BUDGET 2014-2015

STAFF DEVELOPMENT / RECRUITMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

PARENT/COMMUNITY MEETINGS

TAKE PART IN THE TRANSFORMATION OF GRPS

GET INVOLVED

- **Volunteer**
 - GRPS Volunteer Office
 - United Way Schools of Hope
 - Believe to Become
 - Adopt a school
- **Partner with District / Schools**
 - Adopt a School
 - Provide Internship and Job Shadowing Opportunities
- **Donate**
 - Financial / In-Kind Contributions
 - School Boosters
 - Grand Rapids Student Advancement Foundation
 - Grand Rapids Community Foundation / Challenge Scholars
 - United Way
- **Spread the word**
 - Word of Mouth
 - Social Media
 - Newsletters / Flyers / Posters

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