



Grand Rapids Public Schools
PO Box 117
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49501-0117
(616) 819-2000
www.grpublicschools.org

Proudly Offering Parents the Largest Selection of School Choices in West Michigan

Every child is unique. There is no “one-size-fits-all” education to ensure every child – regardless of age, income, ability or nationality - achieves their academic potential. GRPS is proud to offer the region’s largest, most comprehensive selection of educational choices -- so parents and students can choose the best school and education program for academic growth and success.

Eight Years of ‘Right Sizing’ Reforms and Improvements Creating Success

- **GRPS is a “model” urban school district.** The district was recognized as a model for urban school districts in Michigan by Detroit News Editorial Board (November 24, 2008).
- **Making academic progress** particularly at the elementary and middle school level.
 - o For three consecutive years, GRPS has increased the number of schools meeting federal Adequate Yearly Progress standards, jumping from 26 to 35 schools – a 25% improvement
 - o For three consecutive years, GRPS has increased the number of school earning a “B” grade or better on the state Education Yes report. The number of schools increased from 7 to 20 – a 65% improvement
 - o Math MEAP scores increased for 4 consecutive years at ALL grades tested
- **New School Choices** are available to parents thanks to the creation of the “Centers of Innovation” – a new public-private partnership that led to the development of the University Prep Academy and four new high school choices.
- **Safe Schools are Even Safer** with new/expanded security training, technology and relationship building that has reduced the number of major incident for 4 consecutive years.
- **Providing New 21st Century Learning Environments** with 11 new/renovated elementary and middle schools complete with the latest technology and educational designs to support student achievement and instruction.
- **Effort-Based Learning Model driving systemic change** thanks to the generous support of the Doug and Maria DeVos Foundation and a partnership with the nationally renowned Institute for Learning at the University of Pittsburgh’s
- **New and Improved Extracurricular Opportunities** are available thanks to federal support and a partnership with local foundations. As a result GRPS now offers the LOOP after school program at all elementary, middle, and K-8 schools. The district is also establishing a comprehensive middle school athletics program.

Highlights of GRPS School Choices and Programs:

- GRPS is home to the region's top performing high school (City High-Middle School, MME 2007)
 - o In 2007 and 2008, City High students achieved the highest scores on the Michigan Merit Exam
 - o Third highest performing school in Michigan
 - o Ranked among "America's Top Schools" by U.S. News and World Report two years in a row
 - o City High-Middle is set to become the first school in region to offer the coveted International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (Grades 7 – 10)
- Pre-K-12 Montessori: Only district in Michigan to offer PreK-12 Montessori
 - o GR Montessori ranked in "America's Top Schools" by U.S. News & World Report
- NEW "Centers of Innovation"
 - o University Preparatory Academy: Small Class Sizes 17 to 1 ratio / 90% graduation rate and college enrollment
 - o Center for Economicology: Cutting-edge instruction centered on economy and ecology.
- NEW High School "Centers of Innovation" - Career-College Focused Pilot Schools (grades 9 – 12)
 - o School of Health Science & Technology @ Central: Located on the "medical mile", HST is the region's top secondary education program in health science, technology, and law in partnership with Spectrum Health, MSU Med School, GVSU Health Sciences, GRCC and many more.
 - o Engineering and Biomedical School @Creston (GRAPCEP): Region's top secondary education program for engineering and biomedical careers with a 99% graduation rate.
 - o Academy for Design and Construction @ Union: Partnered with the top architecture and construction companies in the region.
 - o School of Business Management, Leadership & Entrepreneurship @ Ottawa Hills
- Bilingual & English Language Learners Programs/Services:
 - o The largest selection of English Language Learner programs in the region with 21 schools designated as Language Centers with more than 170 highly qualified bilingual teachers.
 - o Region's most extensive Spanish-English immersion program
- NEW - City @ Zoo School, Blandford School, and the Center for Economicology (6th grade only): GRPS is the only district in the region with schools located at John Ball Park Zoological Garden and Blandford Nature Center.
- NEW - All Day Preschool at select schools
- All-Day Kindergarten in all but 5 elementary schools
- Year-Round/Alternative Calendar Schools: The region's largest selection of year-round schools.
- Schools with uniforms: GRPS has eleven schools that require uniforms, including the first and only high school in the region that requires uniforms at Central High.
- Regional K-8th Theme Schools: Environmental Sciences, Math, Science & Technology, Language & Global Studies, Creative Arts, and more
- Comprehensive Special Education Programs & Services
- Advance Placement classes and Dual-Enrollment opportunities
- After-School Programs (LOOP): After school programs are available at all of our elementary, middle, and K8 schools.
- In-School Health Clinics and Social Services: FREE health care and dental services
- Comprehensive Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities (Academic Games, Debate, Mock Trial)
- NEW – Middle School Academic and Athletic Expansion Project
- 11 New/Renovated State-of-the-Art Elementary and Middle Schools