



## Bradford Academy

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Dear Parent Partner,

I want to share how exceptionally proud I am of the work being done at Bradford Academy Schools, both by our students & staff. It has come to my attention, that there are several parents who would like clarification regarding the schools accreditation status and how it relates to college acceptance for this years graduating seniors, as well as our performance ranking.

The Michigan Department of Education conducts an Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) evaluation of all public elementary, middle schools, and high schools in Michigan. AYP tests schools and school districts in the areas of academic achievement, participation in state assessment, graduation rate for high schools, and student attendance for elementary and middle schools. In addition, the Department reports on Education YES! - a Yardstick for Excellent Schools, the state school accreditation system under which letter grades are assigned for academic achievement. The report card provides a composite grade for each school. During the 2009 – 2010 school year; Bradford Academy Schools received a letter grade of C (78%) and successfully achieved AYP status.

In addition to successfully meeting the Michigan Department of Education accreditation standards, Bradford Academy voluntarily underwent an outside audit by the highly acclaimed and respected North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement. This team of experts spent two days at our school evaluating policies and procedures, investigating data to support instructional practices, observing teachers and students while engaged in teaching and learning, interviewing members of our Board of Directors, volunteer parents, students, instructional staff members and support staff members to determine the impact our current structure is having on students and the overall success of the school. At the end of the evaluative assessment a rubric is used to measure success in seven key areas. The areas assessed are Vision & Purpose, Governance & Leadership, Teaching & Learning, Documenting & Using Results, Resources & Support Systems, Stakeholder Communications & Relationships, and finally Commitment to Continuous Improvement. The rubric responses used to determine performance are:

<b>Not Evident:</b>	There is no evidence to support the criteria.
<b>Emerging:</b>	Evidence indicates early or preliminary stages of implementation of practice.
<b>Operational:</b>	Evidence indicates practices and procedures are actively implemented.
<b>Highly Functional:</b>	Evidence indicates exceptional practices and procedures are fully integrated and effectively and consistently implemented.

**Bradford Academy received the highest rating possible (Highly Functional) in all seven areas of the evaluation!** This is a phenomenal milestone that shows we are committed to providing the best educational experience possible for every child every day!

Educationally yours,

Mr. Nic South, Asst. Superintendent Bradford Academy School