



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017

**Contact:**

*Maria Montoya*

*[mmontoya@excellentschoolsdetroit.org](mailto:mmontoya@excellentschoolsdetroit.org)*

*504.343.6754*

**21 schools listed as “Recommend Schools” in ESD’s 2017 K-8 Scorecard**

*Updated scores show approximately 1 in 5 Detroit students attended failing schools*

DETROIT (Feb. 15, 2017)– For the sixth consecutive year, Excellent Schools Detroit (ESD) is releasing the annual K-8 Scorecard, and this year 21 schools (19 in Detroit) made their “Recommended Schools” list. Students, parents, and community members can access the new data at [Scorecard.ExcellentSchoolsDetroit.org](http://Scorecard.ExcellentSchoolsDetroit.org), where each school’s overall letter grade, school demographics, academic performance, and climate and culture are featured in a searchable database.

“With so many families unsure as to whether they will have to select a new school for next year based on school closure announcements, we felt it was absolutely vital to get our K-8 Scorecard information updated and available to families as soon as possible,” said ESD’s Interim CEO Linda Forte. “We know families are best served when they are equipped with all the information they need to choose a school, and this year more than ever Detroit families need to know what their choices are when it comes to schools.”

Currently, K-8 students attend over 160 schools in Detroit which are governed by 11 different entities, including Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) and several public universities. Each of these authorizing bodies has a different standard of success. This varying level of standards makes it very difficult for parents and families to get credible, easy-to-understand information about which schools are best for their children. The ESD Scorecard provides critical information as one component for making that best choice for their children.

On the 2017 ESD K-8 Scorecard, a total of 156 schools received letter grades. To receive a letter grade, a school must be either located physically within the city of Detroit or 50% or more of its student body must be from Detroit. In addition, there must be sufficient M-STEP data for determining a grade. All of the 25 graded suburban schools are charter schools, 2 of which are “ESD Recommended Schools” and 8 of which received F’s.

Among the 131 graded schools located within Detroit, there are 19 “ESD



Recommended Schools" on the 2017 ESD K-8 Scorecard (i.e., schools that earn a C+ or better) that enrolled 9,512 students K-8 students in 2015-16. In both the 2015 and 2016 ESD K-8 Scorecards, there were only 12 such schools. The 19 "ESD Recommended Schools" on the 2017 ESD K-8 Scorecard, 14 are charter schools, 4 are run by the Detroit Public School Community District (DPSCD), and 1 is in the Education Achievement Authority (EAA). In 2015, there were 12 recommended schools in Detroit, 6 of which were charters and 6 that were DPS.

ESD's point scales are constructed based on statewide distributions for each proficiency and growth measure. The basic methodology of the ESD Scorecard has been unchanged since 2015. The K-8 letter grades are determined by calculating the following data:

- 40% of the grade is based on proficiency across four subjects (English Language Arts [ELA], Mathematics, Science and Social Studies), weighted equally;
- 40% is based on academic growth in two subjects (ELA and Math); and
- 20% is based on results from a research-based climate and culture survey.

The Scorecard provides families and interested stakeholders with objective measures of academic performance and school climate, informing local, state, and national discussions about Detroit schools. Each year, the Scorecard has put a spotlight on quality and advocated for authorizers, district officials, school leaders, and policymakers to act in the best interests of Detroit students and families.

Among the 66 DPSCD schools that received ESD K-8 Scorecard grades in both 2015 and 2017, 12 schools improved, 28 stayed the same, and 26 grades declined.

Approximately 1 in 3 DPSCD K-8 students attended what ESD considers to be a failing school in 2015-16, and overall 1 in 5 public school students in Detroit attended what ESD considers to be a failing school in 2015-16. However, for the first time ever, an EAA school (Nolan Elementary-Middle School) earned an "ESD Recommended School" designation. In the 2015 ESD K-8 Scorecard, all EAA K-8 schools had earned F's. In the 2017 ESD K-8 Scorecard, only 2 of 5 EAA K-8 schools earned an F.

In addition to the above data, the 2017 K-8 Scorecard, includes these additional key findings:

- While ESD remains concerned that high-performing charter schools may not be accessible to all students in Detroit because of transportation or enrollment barriers, according to the 2017 ESD K-8 Scorecard it is evident that charter and EAA schools in Detroit are improving while DPSCD is declining.
- Among the 57 charter schools that received ESD K-8 Scorecard grades in both 2015 and 2017, 33 grades improved, 16 grades stayed the same, and 8 grades declined. Only 4 K-8 charter schools earned an F in 2017 (compared to 9 in 2015 and 7 in 2016).



- Approximately 1 in 16 charter school students attended what ESD considers to be a failing school in 2015-16.

ESD understands such numbers and changes in the education landscape can be overwhelming for students and families. In 2016, ESD launched Enroll Detroit, a free service to help families overcome enrollment barriers from birth through college. Enroll Detroit staff are available to offer one-on-one support to any family looking to understand Scorecard data or assistance trying to enroll in an early childhood care and education program, K-12 school, career and technical program or college.

“Too often we have heard from families that they don’t know where to begin. Figuring out if a school is right for their child or not is exhausting without help,” said Enroll Detroit’s Outreach Manager, Bernita Bradley. “Although data alone doesn’t tell the full story of a school, we know from working with hundreds of families who were coming from closed schools or moving to the city last summer that our Scorecard gives families a place to start.”

Families who need support can call (888) 308-1534 to connect with an Enroll Detroit team member. Community organizations and/or any entity that directly serves families can also contact Enroll Detroit if they would like to schedule a presentation on the Scorecard and/or Enroll Detroit’s services by e-mailing [bernita@enrolldetroit.org](mailto:bernita@enrolldetroit.org). Reporters, researchers and members of the community who would like to learn more about Scorecard data can e-mail [mmontoya@excellentschoolsdetroit.org](mailto:mmontoya@excellentschoolsdetroit.org) to set-up time with a member of ESD’s data team.

-30-

*About Excellent Schools Detroit: Excellent Schools Detroit seeks to create the conditions necessary to ensure an excellent education for every Detroit child, cradle-to-career, by the year 2020. This goal was established by a coalition of Detroit’s civic, community, education, and philanthropic leaders. For more information on ESD’s Scorecard, please visit [ExcellentSchoolsdetroit.org](http://ExcellentSchoolsdetroit.org) or call 888.308.1534.*