



 **NAVIANCE**
by HOBSONS

Helping Students Make Informed Decisions

OVERVIEW

■ MIDDLE SCHOOL | ■ HIGH SCHOOL | ■ DISTRICT | □ HIGHER ED

Exceptional! 
ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

About AAPS

- 17,311 Students
- 5 High Schools
- 5 Middle Schools

Student Population

- 14% Asian
- 14% African American
- 8% Hispanic/Latino
- 1,078 English language learners

Source: <https://www.mischooldata.org/DistrictSchoolProfiles2/StudentInformation/StudentCounts/StudentCount.aspx>

Through the Lens of Equity and Access – When Good Is Not Good Enough

Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) is a Michigan district consisting of 17,300 students of diverse backgrounds and economic statuses. Although already a high-achieving district, AAPS Superintendent Dr. Jeanice Swift has committed to increasing achievement levels for all students, with special emphasis on underserved populations such as Hispanic/Latino and low-income students.

More than one-fifth of students in AAPS have been classified as low-income, and for the past five years graduation rates for this group have been below 70 percent. Superintendent Swift has made it her goal to increase graduation rates of low-income students and to raise the overall district graduation rate to 90 percent by ensuring that the needs of all AAPS students are addressed¹. Dr. Swift was recently named the 2018 Michigan Superintendent of the Year by the Michigan Association of School Administrators, in part for increasing achievement levels for all students.

“High-performing school districts face the same challenges that other districts face,” explains Paul DeAngelis, Executive Director of High School Education for AAPS, who, as a member of Dr. Swift’s Cabinet, shares her commitment to eliminating the achievement gap for students from underrepresented populations, including English as a Second Language students and low-income, special education, and non-white learners.

According to DeAngelis, AAPS focuses on everything through the lens of equity and access.

¹ http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/05/graduation_rate_for_low-income.html

79%

APS college enrollment rates of 79 percent²
(well above the national average of 69 percent³)

89%

AAPS four-year graduation rates of 89 percent
(well above the state average of 82 percent)

² <https://www.freep.com/story/opinion/contributors/raw-data/2017/08/25/database-search-college-enrollment-rates-school-district/597897001/>

³ <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=372>

“There are many priorities in public education, but at end of the day, districts and communities are measured by the success of our students. We must improve opportunities for every learner and create programs that are designed to reach 100 percent of students.”

Paul DeAngelis,

Executive Director of High School Education,
AAPS

Learn more about Ann Arbor Public School's selection and evaluation process in [“Bringing College and Career Readiness to All Students: Finding A Comprehensive College and Career Readiness Partner”](#)

“There are many priorities in public education, but at end of the day, districts and communities are measured by the success of our students. We must improve opportunities for every learner and create programs that are designed to reach 100 percent of students,” he says. Although AAPS already has high college attendance and graduation rates, the district's commitment to address the needs of all students is its highest priority.

Closing the Gap with a Comprehensive College and Career Readiness Initiative

The eight education strategies outlined in the AAPS strategic plan are laser-focused on providing personalized, relevant learning experiences that engage and inspire students. To deliver on these strategies, it became imperative for AAPS to quickly and efficiently scale their initiatives around college and career readiness and personalized learning.

“We not only want to help underrepresented students perform well. We want to help propel them forward, help them dig deep into opportunities, and succeed long-term,” says DeAngelis. While AAPS was using a free, state-offered career search tool, DeAngelis began the search process for a more holistic platform to expedite Superintendent Swift's goal of assisting underserved students and breaking down barriers to college and career readiness. DeAngelis knew they needed a partner with proven experience in guiding and implementing successful initiatives at scale. *“Our existing solution) was very limited in scope,”* he says. *“We needed more than an education development plan (EDP) tool; we needed a single place for students starting in 7th grade to do everything they need to fully explore postsecondary options. Through the lens of equity and access, we needed to give first-generation students and their families access to advantages – provide the ability to dig deep into career opportunities, search for financial aid and scholarships, and complete their EDP – all in one place.”*

After researching what options were available to them, DeAngelis, Dr. Swift, and the School Board quickly selected Naviance as their new college and career readiness platform.

Helping All Students Make Well-Informed Decisions About Their Future

With Naviance as their platform of choice, Dr. Swift, DeAngelis, and the AAPS Naviance Success Team are focused on implementing a CCR initiative that helps all students make well-informed decisions about their future and develop highly personalized plans for achieving their goals. *“While the majority of AAPS students do go on to a two- or four-year college, many students start that experience with no clue what they want to study,”* says DeAngelis. Naviance helps districts create a framework to guide students through four key questions: who am I, what do I want to be, how will I get there, and how can I be successful. Students develop proficiency in six areas: success skills, self-knowledge, building a support network, career planning, college planning, and financial literacy.

“2017-18 is a ‘get our feet wet’ year and we are very proactive in making sure students are taking advantage of Naviance. We’re monitoring how many students are using the tool – not just accessing it,” DeAngelis reports. AAPS will drive meaningful usage of Naviance as guided by their CCR Scope and Sequence. Current milestones in the AAPS CCR initiative include administering a 10th grade postsecondary plan and 11th grade financial plan to engage students in building an actionable path for life after high school. By Fall 2018, 100 percent of students in AAPS will have an EDP on Naviance. Metrics for tracking interim progress against their goals include: number of student logins to Naviance and the percent of students who identify strengths and interests and identify career clusters of interest.

While AAPS has only begun to use Naviance to increase student achievement and graduation rates, its CCR initiative will certainly be a model for districts throughout the state and country.



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