The Education Trust-Midwest is proud to announce the 2021 Building the Hope Award Recipients. At the Building the Hope Schools, the majority of students are students of color and students from low-income backgrounds. These public schools are in the top 25% for academic proficiency or above average student growth for all Michigan students. Moreover, their subgroups of students—Black, Latino/a, low-income and English Learner students in particular—also are performing in the top 30% among Michigan’s high-growth public schools where data is available. They also engage in culturally and linguistically-responsive school-wide practices—including instructional practices—that facilitate students’ outstanding academic progress and growth, making them true outliers in the state of Michigan.

“I would like this building to be deemed as somewhere where kids can come and truly be safe so they can truly learn at a deep level, be treated fairly, and be approached at ...their own individual level, being met at their needs...[and where we] meet the kids where they’re at.”

—Blair Feldkamp
Discovery Elementary Principal

“They’re really good about making sure that everyone is getting all the information the best way that they can understand it. We’re always asked at conferences, ‘do you need an interpreter there?’ They’re always really good about making sure that there’s no issues between communicating with parent to teacher or staff.”

—Discovery Elementary Parent
Discovery Elementary School was selected as a BTH school because most subgroups of students, including Black, Latino/a, and students from low-income backgrounds showed exceptional academic progress as demonstrated by exceeding the statewide proficiency rate in both ELA and Math for 3 consecutive years.

671 Total Enrollment

Discovery Elementary has demonstrated consistent commitment to their diverse school community by addressing language barriers, hosting cultural celebration days, and advocating for a culturally-responsive curriculum. In support of their belief that all children are capable of high achievement, students learn in groups tailored to their levels and teachers utilize small learning groups to support students who are struggling. Moreover, the school schedule is optimized and designed to allow for deep student learning. Parents also report that their children are known and engaged in their unique strengths and needs.

Black Students’ 2019 Proficiency Rates

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ELA</th>
<th>MATH</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Students at Discovery</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>44.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statewide Rate for all MI Students</td>
<td>44.3%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
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</tbody>
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buildingthehopeschools.org