



**Ypsilanti Community Schools**

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**www.ycschools.us**

## **District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

April 21, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-15 educational progress for Ypsilanti Community Schools and our schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Laura Frey-Greathouse, [lfreygreathouse@ycschools.us](mailto:lfreygreathouse@ycschools.us), for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.ycschools.us/>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. Each school will also be communicating their own AER to parents directly.

These reports contain the following information:

**Student Assessment Data** – Elementary or middle school assessment results on the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP), high school assessment results on the M-STEP component of the Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and assessment results for students with disabilities on Michigan's Alternative Assessment Program (MI-Access).

- Presents achievement data for all four tested subjects (English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies) compared to targets for all students as well as subgroups of students
- Helps parents understand achievement progress within schools and compare these to district and state achievement

### **Accountability Scorecard – Detail Data and Status**

Due to the transition from MEAP tests to the M-STEP test, the accountability portion of the AER is limited to assessment participation and graduation/attendance rates. Full accountability reporting will resume with the 2015-16 AER.

## Teacher Qualification Data

- Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels
- Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes

We are seeing positive gains in student achievement at various levels particularly within elementary schools. NWEA results indicate a sharp improvement from the fall to the winter. Multiple measures beyond the NWEA indicate students' success and that programming is working as anticipated. People NOT programs make the difference. Teachers have the greater impact on student success. Great teachers get all students to perform better; but great teachers AND involved parents have the greatest impact on students' success. So, here, I offer the simple, concrete plan. When we follow it, then we succeed. It is the (7) Correlates of Effective Schools and has been empirically proven to succeed. Any and every urban school (district) should use it as the blueprint to success.

The correlates consist of:

- Safe and Orderly Environment
- Visionary Leadership
- Clear, Concise Mission Statement
- Ongoing Assessment
- Student Time on Task and Opportunity to Learn
- Home-School Relationship
- High Expectations for Students (and Staff)

I know it is the sum of leadership (personality, drive, intensity, dedication, creativity, and expectation) and teamwork within the building that accomplishes arduous tasks such as ours.

As we have a distinct, precise problem in math and reading, I expect each and every teacher to focus on the basics, which will solidify the proper foundation. Together, using similar strategies, we can guarantee routines that secure a foundation in reading and mathematics, but again, consistency is critical. Though climates are all different in each school, the learning experience should be no different.

We have excited, enthused, engaged students working tirelessly on their (our) futures. *Problem solvers*. We have tremendously loyal, supportive parents who still believe in YCS. We have actively engaged and demanding parents. We have dedicated alumni volunteering hour upon hour to the school community. We have local businesses and university partners that invest time, thought, and finances, and we have some outstanding teacher-leaders in all of our schools who are impacting students' lives daily. **That is YCS!**

Sincerely,

Dr. Benjamin Edmondson