



SPRING LAKE

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Spring Lake Middle School
345 Hammond Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 30, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the Spring Lake Middle School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Aaron West for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.springlakeschools.org/publications/annual-education-report, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

If the results of the M-Step standardized assessment that was administered in the spring of 2016 are compared with the state and county average, Spring Lake Middle School has a favorable proficiency rate in each grade level regardless of content area. However, if we take this comparison a step further and look at high performing schools with similar demographics in the west Michigan area, we have the potential to improve in 8th grade social studies and English Language Arts, along with 7th grade science. This was most notable in the spring of 2015 data. Our plan is to make this comparison longitudinal and see if this is a trend that continues for two or three years. If so, our school improvement plan will be adjusted accordingly to target any curricular deficiencies that we identify.

Student Assignment - As Spring Lake Middle School is the only public school that accepts 7th and 8th grade students within the district, there is no process established for assigning students to this building. All residents in the previously mentioned grade levels attend SLMS. Furthermore, it should be noted that we currently have a number of students who attend as non-residents.

School Improvement / Core Curriculum - We are currently in year one of our 3-5 year School Improvement Plan. The first primary core academic goal includes improving student proficiency in math. The entire SLMS core curriculum (math, science, English, and social studies) follows the Michigan Core Curriculum model and/or the Common Core State Standards. Copies of core curriculums can be obtained from specific content

teachers. Goal two includes improving achievement results in language arts. Teachers have evaluated data from the M-Step ELA test, as well as data from the Discovery Education battery of assessments, which is completed by all students at SLMS. Staff have used this information to “inform their instruction” and developed a set of strategies and activities. Goal three addresses improved accuracy in the area of science. Our science instructors also reviewed student test scores from the M-Step. Based on that exercise, they have developed a plan that will be implemented.

Specialized Schools - Some Spring Lake Public Schools’ students who are identified as having one or more disabilities are able to receive educational services at specialized schools and centers. The programs are operated by the Ottawa Area Intermediate School District and/or Spring Lake Public Schools. The decision to place a student in any special education program is made by an Individualized Education Plan Committee (IEPC) which includes at least one of the student’s parents, a teacher, diagnostic personnel, and a school administrator. The goal of all specialized programs is to facilitate a student’s educational growth to the maximum extent possible. Many of these programs are available from infancy through early adulthood. These programs include: Autism, Severely Emotionally Impaired, Cognitively Impaired, Severely Multiply Impaired, Infant, and Total Communication Program.

Student Achievement - The results of the spring 2016 M-Step assessments, which were completed by the members of our student body, are listed below showing the percentage of proficient students:

8 th Grade Content Area	Spring Lake MS	Ottawa County	State of Michigan
English Language Arts	75%	65%	49%
Math	72%	48%	33%
Social Studies	44%	40%	29%
7 th Grade Content Area	Spring Lake MS	Ottawa County	State of Michigan
English Language Arts	76%	65%	47%
Math	68%	52%	35%
Science	46%	38%	24%

Parent-Teacher Conferences - Parents and community members have always been strong supporters and active participants here. The majority of our students were represented by a parent during Parent-Teacher Conferences in the fall. Winter conferences also had more than fifty percent of students represented. Our Open House in September is always well attended. More than half of parents receive automated electronic progress reports on a daily or weekly basis.

As one can see from the student achievement results listed throughout, we have every right to be proud of our students. We would also like to reiterate that we truly appreciate the commitment and dedication of our parents and staff. The strong bonds that have been created between students, employees, and community members has allowed for a model of success to be firmly established.

Sincerely,


Aaron West, Principal