



# SPRING LAKE

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## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

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January 31, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) provides key information on the 2018-2019 educational progress for the Spring Lake Alternative Education. 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 Mike Gilchrist for assistance. The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting [Alternative Education AER](#), or you may review a copy in the High School office.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A label has not been given to Spring Lake Alternative Education. However, Spring Lake High School was ranked in the top 12% in the state of Michigan among all schools, which is an outstanding ranking.

**Student Assignment** – Students who are assigned to the Spring Lake Alternative Education program are students who are currently not meeting high school graduation credit hour requirements.

**School Improvement** – Our school is ready to begin year 3 of a 3 – 5 year School improvement cycle. Each of the four core academic areas (math, science, English and Social Studies) has a goal related to improving student performance on the SAT and M-STEP assessments. The foreign language department also has a goal that is a part of this same plan, which also relates to improving performance through common assessment. The entire core curriculum at SLHS is aligned with the High School Content Expectations that have been created by the Michigan Department of Education. Any individual who might be interested in reviewing a copy of the core curriculum can request this material from the appropriate high school department chairperson.

**Core Curriculum**- Spring Lake Alternative Education has joined with the Michigan Department of Education in adopting the Common Core State Standards. We are in our 5th year of implementation for Math and Language Arts and have just adopted the new Michigan Science Standards. A copy of the curriculum can be found on the Spring Lake Public Schools Curriculum Website.

**Specialized Schools** – Some Spring Lake Public Schools students who are identified as having one or more handicaps 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 – Data that shows the average SAT scores for those students in the graduating class of 2019, at SLHS, and throughout the state of Michigan, are listed below:

M-STEP Assessment Average Proficiency Percentage		
Content Area	Spring Lake Alternative Avg.	State of Michigan Avg.
Social Studies	50%	47%

SAT	Number Tested	Average Composite Score
Alternative Education	13	897

Spring Lake High School continues to make minimal gains in regards to student achievement. Because our test scores continually rank in the top tier in the state our gains will be in smaller increments than schools that perform much lower. We continually assess students on four standardized tests: The M-STEP, PSAT 9, PSAT 10, and the SAT. Each of these assessments provides our staff with academic achievement information to identify strengths and weaknesses in academic achievement. These efforts continue to maintain and progress student achievement while closing persistent achievement gaps.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Parents and other community members are tremendous supporters of the educational process at Spring Lake High School. Over eighty-six (86) percent of our students were represented by a parent or guardian at the Parent-Teacher Conferences in the fall of the 2018-2019 school year. The annual Open House in September 2019 was also very well attended. The conference session during the second trimester had over eighty-five (85) percent of the students represented. The third term conference sessions were by invitation only for struggling students, as they have been in the past. Lastly, over ninety-five (95) percent of our students are represented by parents or guardians who receive automated electronic progress reports.

Post-Secondary Enrollment – The number and percentage of SLHS students who received college credit through dual enrollment included 52 students of the 368 who were eligible. Fourteen (14) percent of the students who were eligible for the opportunity to choose to participate.

College Equivalent Courses – Seven different Advanced Placement and nine International Baccalaureate courses are offered at our school. Those AP courses include Biology (currently offered every other year), Calculus AB, English Language and Composition, Microeconomics, Spanish, Statistics and United States History. The IB courses include Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Math, Math Studies, Psychology, Spanish, Theory of Knowledge and World History, History of the Americas, Music and Visual Arts. The numbers and percentage of Spring Lake High School students enrolled in one or more college level equivalent courses in 2018-2019 were as follows:

I.B. Course enrollment		
Juniors	Seniors	Total enrollment for I.B. Courses
53	63	116 (14.28%)

AP Course enrollment			
Sophmores	Juniors	Seniors	Total enrollment for AP Courses
27	66	116	209 (22.99%)

College Credit - In the spring of 2019, 159 AP exams were taken. A score of three or better was earned on 145 of the exams. This reflects a proficiency rate of seventy-two (72) percent.

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

Sincerely,

SPRING LAKE ALTERNATIVE ED



Mike Gilchrist  
Principal