



Hillsdale Community Schools  
**Horizon Alternative High School**  
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Dr. Keith Rushing, Director

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**School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

August 23, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for the Horizon Alternative High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Dr. Rushing for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [hillsdaleschools.org](http://hillsdaleschools.org) or you may review a copy from the Director's office at your child's school.

For 2010-2011, Horizon Alternative High School did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) because:

- We did not test 95% of our students.
- We did not attain target achievement goals in English language arts.
- We did not attain target achievement goals in mathematics.
- We did not meet the 80% graduation rate goal.
- We did not meet the 90% attendance rate goal.

If we do not make AYP for two years in a row, we will be identified for school improvement. The staff at Horizon Alternative will be providing more instruction in literacy skills and remedial math strategies. Parents can help by contacting the school with questions or concerns about your student's education and encouraging regular attendance.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. Students 9-12 grades are assigned to the Alternative program on a case by case basis using a variety of factors. Open enrollment is also possible through Schools of Choice, allowing any student in the county to attend Horizon Alternative High School.

2. The administration has a school improvement plan in place that addresses proficiency rates, specifically in ELA. The plan also addresses the learning environment and school climate which facilitate student achievement. Horizon is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of a 5 year cycle of school improvement.

3. Horizon serves the needs of students that have not been successful in the traditional education setting. Offerings include individualized (personal) curriculums, differentiated instruction, online learning from home, and credit recovery throughout the year.

4. The curriculum of Horizon Alternative High School is consistent and aligned with the Michigan Curriculum Framework, as developed by the Michigan Department of education. This curriculum framework can be found online at

<http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-38924---,00.html>. The implementation of this curriculum is met through the direct and indirect instruction of High School Content Expectations as developed by the Department of Education.

5. Horizon Alternative increased the percentage of students scoring in the 2 (proficient) and 3 (partially proficient) categories in English language Arts/Reading to 66.7% in 2010-11, from 53% in 2009-10. Scores in the same areas were also increased in Math, to 27.5% scoring 2's and 3's in 2011, from 23.5% in 2010.

6. We had a total of 3 students (4%) represented by their parents or a responsible adult during our Spring parent-teacher conferences.

7. This academic school year we did not have any dually enrolled students. We did not offer any college level (equivalent) course. We did not have any student receive college credit for courses taken while enrolled in our program.

I am proud of the students that attend Horizon Alternative and the adversity that they have overcome to make it this far in life. Test scores and statistics are unable to measure the insurmountable obstacles that these students face on a daily basis. Though test scores are behind other schools in the area, they are rising. The school continues to pursue greater achievement in reading and math.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Rushing, DMA

Director, Horizon Alternative High School