

Hillsdale Community Schools

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"Learning For A Lifetime"

March 27, 2019

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2017-2018 educational progress for Samuel L. Gier Elementary 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 Laurie VanOrman, principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://www.mischooldata.org/NewAer2/CombinedReport2.aspx>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2017-2018 year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. 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.

As indicated by the scores in the combined report, Gier Elementary School is working very hard to exceed the state average in all areas as measured by the M-STEP. Our fourth grade math and language arts scores will continue to be an area of focus as we look to fully implement our curricular resources and interventions. Chronic attendance problems also continue to challenge us. We are utilizing resources such as our Pathways to Potential worker, School Success Worker and Truancy Officer to support families and get children to school.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Process for assigning students to the school Gier Elementary School houses all of the district's kindergarten through fourth grade students. These students are assigned to this building when they enroll into the district. We also accept students through School of Choice.

2. School Improvement Plan Gier Elementary School is currently implementing strategies/activities from our school improvement plan to meet the educational needs of our students. The following school improvement goals have been developed as determined by data analysis:

- I. All students at Gier Elementary School will meet minimum grade level expectations in language arts
- II. All students at Gier Elementary School will become math problem solvers.
- III. All stakeholders at Gier Elementary School will be informed and involved.

The staff will continue to analyze data from various assessments including but not limited to formative and summative assessments to determine the effectiveness of our instructional practices in improving student growth. Based upon this data analysis and review, modifications will be made annually to the school improvement plan. Through professional development and collaboration, staff members will continue to improve methods of instruction. A complete copy of the school improvement plan is located in the school office

3. Specialized Schools There are no specialized schools associated with Gier Elementary School.

4. Core Curriculum As mandated by the State of Michigan, Hillsdale Community Schools has developed curriculum for all subject areas. We provide a challenging curriculum correlated to local, state, and national standards; individualized best practice instruction; and quality extra-curricular activities supported by a highly qualified staff. All classes are taught by highly qualified teachers with classroom curriculum aligned with the Michigan Curriculum Framework which can be found at <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>.

5. Student Achievement Results for Local Competency Tests Locally, the school district uses the DRA2 to accurately depict reading strengths, weakness, and to determine if students have met the grade level standard. During the 2015-16 school year, 63% of our students were meeting the benchmark for our reading assessment. For the 2017-2018 school year over 64% of the students met or were above benchmark for reading. Math competency is measured by district created assessments. Over 70% of our students met or exceeded the grade level benchmarks in grades K-4 during the last 2 years.

6. Students Represented at Parent-Teacher Conferences Our school has two opportunities for parent-teacher conferences. We have high turnout for parent-teacher conferences, with Fall conferences typically higher.

Year	Conferences held	Percentage attendance
Fall 2015	348	98%
Spring 2016	336	93%
Fall 2017	356	97%
Spring 2018	342	92%

Gier Elementary School's faculty and administration are committed to providing an exemplary learning experience for our elementary students. We welcome and encourage parent and stakeholder participation and support. Our district continually scores first in the county in multiple measures of achievements and ratings. We offer a variety of activities for all students. Hornet pride is alive and strong in our school.

Sincerely,

Laurie VanOrman
Principal