



School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

April 8, 2019

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2017-18 educational progress for Ballard 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 Jeron Blood for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/2W3xBuz> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2017-18 school 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.

* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.

ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Our student attendance is excellent and students average one-year of growth for each school year. Even with these positives, our proficiency on the M-STEP Reading Test is lower than some of the other districts in the state. While our year-to-year scores are showing improvement, we know there is work to be done to continue to meet state standards. Therefore, we have implemented a school-wide reading and math intervention system this year that aims to support our learners who are struggling in math and reading. Grade level teams have and will continue to analyze student progress data to figure out the best way to support our students moving forward.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

PUPIL ASSIGNMENT

Students are assigned to a school based on their address. Parents have the option to fill out an intra-district or school-of-choice application in the spring if they wish to attend Ballard, and do not live in the attendance area.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The 3-5 year School Improvement Plan can be found on our website as well as in the school office.

DESCRIPTION OF SCHOOL

Ballard Elementary is a public, K-5 school.

ACCESS TO CORE CURRICULUM

As mandated by the State of Michigan, Niles Community Schools has developed a core curriculum at all school levels. Outcomes to be achieved by all students have been defined based upon the district's educational mission, student performance objectives, and the Michigan Common Core State Standards for K-12 students. Copies of core curriculum are available at all buildings and at the district office.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT DATA

Percent of Students Meeting/Exceeding Projected RIT Growth on NWEA

School Year	Reading	Math
2016-2017	57.4%	60.2%
2017-2018	54.8%	60.3%

Parent Teacher Conference Data

Year	Fall Attendance Number/Percent	Spring Attendance Number/Percent
2016-2017	552/93%	247/86%
2017-2018	556/94%	325/87%

We hope you will visit us and become an active member of our school community. Our Parent Teacher Organization works to provide students with materials, equipment, and programs that enrich learning. They organize several fundraising opportunities for our school and evening events that help bring parents and staff together to promote a friendly student centered environment at our school.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeron Blood, Principal