

Athens Area Schools

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Richard Franklin, Superintendent

www.athensk12.org

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 15, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2012-2013 educational progress for the Athens High 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 Walter Dubbeld at 729-5427 ext. 230 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.athensk12.org or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

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.

Our school has been identified has not been given one of these labels.

The key challenge facing Athens High School, based on data, are the writing scores. As a result of this we have and continue to implement Writing to Learn and Writing Across the Curriculum. This initiative increases the amount of writing that students produce in all of the areas of curriculum. Writing is also used to increase student learning by responding to the curriculum.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL
2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL
4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL
5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)
 - b. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)
 - c. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)
 - d. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT>

We are very proud of the education we provide our students. Our MEAP and MME scores are outstanding and are consistently better than the neighboring districts. We are in the top 30% of the State's Top to Bottom Rankings. We are recognized also for our caring staff and family atmosphere. Our students demonstrate sportsmanship and are continually recognized in Michigan for their excellent character and attitudes. Our Youth in Government program is recognized in Michigan and across the nation for the achievement of our students. Even though we have great test scores, we are always researching ways to improve the education of our students. We are excited about programs being implemented such as Math Recovery and Writing Across the Curriculum.

Sincerely,

Joe Huepenbecker

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Athens High School

Annual Report

2012-2013

Athens Area Schools

Pride in Excellence

The High School had an enrollment of around 300 students, grades sixth (6th) through twelfth (12th).

We offer a comprehensive program of academic study, fine arts, interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities. We have maintained the distinction of being accredited at the high school through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1999. We continue to create more opportunities for academic excellence through our strong relationships with the Battle Creek Math and Science Center, the Calhoun Area Career Center, the Kellogg Community College, and the Michigan Virtual High School. We invite you to read further and learn more about this “little pocket of excellence south of Battle Creek”.

Vision Statement

The Athens Area Schools are committed to providing a quality education for all students within a respectful, caring environment. Our schools strive to be a family-friendly place where people want to send their children to learn and where students are excited and motivated to achieve excellence. We are dedicated to helping young people become independent, well-rounded, contributing members of society. It is our hope and passion to see that our students are prepared for the world, have the tools and skills necessary to succeed in life, and are challenged in becoming confident leaders for tomorrow.

Core Mission

The Athens Area Schools are dedicated to helping all students achieve their full academic and human potential.

Strategic Goals

- **Our students will meet, or exceed, proficiency standards as measured by the state’s standardized assessment in the core content areas of science, social studies, English/language arts, and mathematics.**
- **Our students will successfully complete their secondary education.**
- **Our students will progress to postsecondary education and/or training after graduating from the Athens Area Schools.**

Guiding Principles

1. **We always act in the best interest of those we serve.**
2. **No one has the right to harm others.**
3. **Everyone has a responsibility to help.**

Teaching and Support Staff

Athens High School had 19 professional educators teaching this past year. Federal oversight and accountability placed on schools through the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation required every school district in America document how their teachers met the standards to be recognized as Highly Qualified. An audit completed by

the Michigan Department of Education found that all of our teachers in the Athens High School (or 100%) met the federal standards for being Highly Qualified to teach their assignments. 100% of our teachers hold a valid teacher certification with the state of Michigan. The paraprofessionals also are highly qualified.

Curriculum

The Michigan Merit Core Curriculum and the State's graduation requirements require rigorous academic requirements. Although the Athens Board of Education and teaching staff adopted new graduation requirements one year earlier that matched the new state requirements, each class hereafter must meet these increased standards for Michigan. We offer credit recovery classes and after-school tutoring so that every student can achieve success. The high school provides dual enrollment opportunities through Kellogg Community College as well as opportunities to attend the Calhoun Area Career Center and the Battle Creek Area Math and Science Center.

Our Curriculum is based on the Common Core Curriculum adopted by the State of Michigan and most other states in the United States. For more information on this, please go to our website at <http://athenscurriculum.weebly.com/> or <http://www.athensk12.org/> and select curriculum under more.

Athletics

Our interscholastic sports program continues to move forward in a very positive and constructive direction. Athens offers student athletes the opportunity to compete in the following sports: Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Track and Field, Baseball, and Softball. We had a very busy year with extracurricular activities offered through the schools in Athens.

Clubs and Organizations

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is the student governing organization. The school administration delegates as much responsibility as it can successfully carry. Each class is entitled to representation in the Council. It will meet regularly. They initiate and direct many student activities. Students are asked to make suggestions to their representatives for the betterment of the school.

CLASS ORGANIZATION

Each class is newly organized at the beginning of each school year. The election of class officers will take place in the fall. Sponsors will be appointed by the principal.

QUIZ BOWL

The purpose of this club is to compete with other schools in academic knowledge.

VARSITY CLUBS

The Varsity Clubs are composed of students who have won varsity letters in the interscholastic athletics. Their goal is to promote good sportsmanship and high standards in athletics in the school and community. Further information may be gained from the constitution.

THE ATHENIAN

The Athenian is the school yearbook, edited and published by the high school Publications class.

SPANISH CLUB

The purpose of this club is to promote interest in and appreciation of the Spanish language. It will provide the students with opportunities to experience cultural activities and events that could not be experienced in the classroom.

S.A.D.D.

The purpose of S.A.D.D. is to promote a safe and healthy attitude about drinking and drugs. The members post information and provide activities to help students make good decisions about drinking and drugs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The purpose is to encourage recycling and student involvement in the beautification of the school and our earth.

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Youth in Government teaches democracy with active learning. Students write bills and learn parliamentary procedure to use during the spring trip to the Capitol in Lansing, Michigan.

Parental Involvement

The Athens Area Schools begin each year with an Open House designed to introduce and orient parents to our staff and facilities. At the beginning of each sports season, a Parent Night is held to introduce the coaching staff and Athletic Director and to review the athletic handbook or other rules/regulations pertaining to student athletes. Twice each year we provide Parent/Teacher Conferences to update parents on their child's academic progress and to address any concerns parents may have with their child's school experiences. 75% of our parents or guardians attend these conferences. We also have a large number of parents using our Parent Connect web-based system to monitor attendance, grades, and nutrition. Aside from these regular opportunities for input, parents are encouraged to drop in to our school offices at any time. We also have a standing Committee on Sex Education, the Athletic Boosters Club, a Band Boosters Club, and a School Safety Standing Committee that have parent participation.

Dual Enrollment

Seven students chose to enroll in college classes while attending Athens High School. This dual enrollment allowed them to earn college credit and credit for graduation from Athens at the same time. This accounted for 5% of the student body who were eligible to partake of dual enrollment. 100% of those students who took these classes passed and received college credit for them. We do not offer any AP classes for college credit as those are available through dual enrollment.

Student Achievement

Our core mission is really student achievement, plain and simple. Although we are often given many tasks and priorities by the state and federal government and by our own communities, our main purpose is to educate our students and help them reach their fullest human potential. Toward that end, we will review our strategic goals and the related data from our performance last year.

Our students will meet, or exceed, proficiency standards as measured by the state's standardized assessment in the core content areas of science, social studies, English/language arts (reading and writing), and mathematics.

Our school improvement plan is completed and revised as necessary.

One way of measuring this goal is by the state's standardized assessment scores on the MEAP for grades 6th through 9th, and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) for the 11th grade

Besides the standardized testing administered by the state, we offer numerous other assessments to determine the needs of the students. Teachers also use a variety of formative and summative assessments to inform instruction. The high school has end-of-course exams which are given to all students.

When reviewing such data from the state and federal level on student academic performance, we also look closely at our special needs population. Each year the Michigan Department of Education performs an audit of 40 requirements from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These requirements range in nature from official documentation and planning, time lines and legal actions, to student achievement and graduation. Our determination rating was a 1 overall; which is the best rating possible for a district indicating that we met all such requirements.

Highlights and Student Successes

One of the unique attributes of this school district and this community is our focus on community service. We share the value that contributing the well-being of others is a worthy service and a legitimate outgrowth of a strong education. The Athens Board of Education requires that every student must provide and substantiate 40 hours of community service between their junior and senior year to graduate from Athens High School.

Our high school students have been participating in the Youth in Government program for many years now, and each year our students distinguish themselves as leaders among their peers.

Another way we demonstrated quality writing outside of the classroom was the high school newspaper, "The Echo". This newspaper has a student editorial board, and is a completely student-run newspaper covering school and community local news. The circulation increased this past year to 1,300 copies printed per month, and has become a newspaper the whole community has grown to appreciate and count on for local news.

Included in the accompanying documents are specifics regarding the other information required for this report.