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|  |  | Athens Area Schools  4320 K Drive South, East Leroy, MI 49051  (269) 729-5427  *Joe Huepenbecker, Superintendent*  www.athensk12.org |  |  |

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

February 1, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-20 educational progress for the East Leroy Elementary. 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 [dubbeldw@athensk12.org](mailto:dubbeldw@athensk12.org) for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [**www.athensk12.org**](http://www.athensk12.org), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child’s school.

For the 2019-20 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 a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. 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.

At East Leroy Elementary School there are several challenges we have faced. Among these are extreme absenteeism with some students, improving student access to technology, and raising the level of achievement in mathematics. In an effort to address these challenges teachers in grades five, six, and seven are currently piloting a new math textbook. This textbook is digital in nature which is part of the reason why we are working to improve student access to technology. This year four carts of 30 chrome books have been purchased. Providing training on how to effectively use chrome books for staff, parents, and students has also been done. Finally, challenging staff to make more contacts with students and families over the required minimum is in progress. Conducting home visits is another strategy being employed. Involving key stakeholders in the community to overcome barriers that have been identified to attending school is yet another method we are using to improve student achievement..>

State law requires that we also report additional information. TO HAVE THIS LETTER MEET THE STATE REQUIREMENTS, EACH SCHOOL SHOULD PROVIDE A REPORT FOR THE **TWO MOST RECENT YEARS** ON THE FOLLOWING:

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:
   1. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)
   2. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)
   3. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)
   4. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT>

As with most school districts 2020-2021 has been a challenging year. In addition to pandemic learning and the difficulties associated with that, East Leroy Elementary has undergone significant construction projects as well. Through it all, the community has been extremely supportive, quarantining when necessary without complaint while working together with staff to provide students with as successful a year as possible. Of particular note, is the way staff has coalesced around the need to educate children, especially since we have been back in session with five days of in-person instruction for the majority of the school year. East Leroy Elementary is a "city on a hill" with both the community and staff putting the needs of students first!

Sincerely,

Marvin Taylor,

Principal

**East Leroy Elementary Annual Report**

**2019-2020**

**Athens Area Schools**

**COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE AND CARING**

**4320 K DRIVE SOUTH**

**EAST LEROY, MICHIGAN**

**269-729-5419**

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ATHENS AREA SCHOOLS:**

1. Everything that is done is in the best interest of the students.

2. No one has a right to harm others.

3. Everyone has a responsibility to help.

Most of our students are bused to our building, which is located seven miles north of the village of Athens, on eleven acres of rolling grassland bordered by woods. East Leroy has eighteen classrooms, Kindergarten through fifth grade. We also have a gymnasium, which serves as a cafeteria, and a library. East Leroy has a counseling office, a conference room, a music room, and a computer lab. We serve around 300 students who live across the entire geographical area of the school district. We have a staff of highly qualified teachers, as well as special education services, a counselor, secretary, and administrator. We also have highly qualified paraprofessionals.

East Leroy Elementary has a family setting with a strong sense of community. Our students are well-behaved and are accepting of differences. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the classroom and school activities. We are very proud of our school and the character our students display.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY WILL EDUCATE, ENCOURAGE AND GUIDE OUR STUDENTS BY PROVIDING A CHALLENGING, RELEVANT CURRICULUM AND APPROPRIATE RESOURCES WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP INTO RESPONSIBLE, SELF ASSURED, THINKING CITIZENS OF TOMORROW.

**School Motto:** Committed to Excellence and Caring

**Required Information:**

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Since Athens Area Schools has only one elementary and one Jr./Sr. high school, students are assigned according to their grade level. Kindergarten through fifth grade attend East Leroy Elementary while sixth through twelfth grade attend Athens Jr./Sr. High School.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We are in the fifth year of our 5 year District/School Improvement Plan. We are pleased with our progress in achieving the goals. We have seven goals addressing Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies, career development and student behavior. Covid has had a detrimental effect in the education of our students especially in the spring when face-to-face education was not possible. We are in the process of reviewing the 5 year plan.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Athens Area Schools does not have any specialized schools in the district. We have one elementary and one junior/senior high 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

Athens Area Schools has adopted the Michigan Standards for all core areas. These standards can be accessed by going to our website at www.athensk12.org and clicking on the page heading “Academics”. There are no variations from the state model and staff is held accountable for teaching this board approved curriculum. The teaching of this curriculum is ensured through classroom observation, assessment results and teacher evaluation.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

The results of student assessment are included in the attached data document.

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

This year 87% of our parents attended parent/teacher conferences.

Last year 95% of our parents attended conferences.

**Caring for Others**

The students demonstrate caring by helping out worthy causes. The school and community have been active in supporting and reaching out to others who need help. Students also participated in raising money for the Leukemia Foundation. We feel that character development and caring for others is as important as academics. The East Leroy staff and the East Leroy Student Council also rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas time.

**Excellence**

Excellence is demonstrated by the M-STEP scores. Besides the standardized testing administered by the state, we offer numerous other assessments to determine the needs of the students. At the elementary level, there are Reading assessments such as DIBELs and MLPP. The math program has additional assessments and the science kits have pre and posttests. Teachers also use a variety of formative and summative assessments in the elementary. Math Recovery provides additional assessments in Mathematics as well as ways to remediate students.

All of our administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals are highly qualified according to the federal requirements.

**Parental Involvement**

East Leroy Elementary begins each year with an Open House designed to introduce

and orient parents to our staff and facilities. Twice each year the schools 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. Over 90% of parents attend these conferences. We also have a large number of parents using our Parent Connect web-based system to monitor attendance, grades, and nutrition. We provide regular newsletters home to parents. Our district website and Facebook offer many opportunities for parents to gain information.

Aside from these regular opportunities for input, parents are encouraged to drop in to our school offices at any time. Our Board of Education holds a Business Session the third Monday of each month. Parents and community members are welcome to provide “public comments” at the appropriate times during the agenda and can participate extensively in the work session topics as they are discussed by the Board.

East Leroy Elementary has a longstanding Parent/Teacher/Student Organization (PTSO) made up of concerned parents wishing to have a more formal and positive influence on our schools. We also have Motor Moms and Dads offered at the elementary school strictly through parent volunteers to provide activities that enhance gross, fine and visual motor skill development. There were a number of opportunities for parents to volunteer in special projects around our District last year. We cannot adequately express our appreciation for all of the parents and community members who volunteered their time and talents so selflessly to help our schools and students.

East Leroy Elementary has gained a reputation for excellence and we have been consulted by other schools to find out the secret of our success.

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