

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

May 10, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for the East Leroy 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 Walter Dubbeld 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 main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 school year, schools were identified using new 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. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school was identified as having not been given one of these labels.

A key challenge facing staff and students at East Leroy Elementary includes improving math achievement and scores as evidenced by M-STEP scores in the last two years. There are learning gaps in student groups from grades three to six. In an effort to address this challenge, a new teaching position was created at East Leroy to provide additional math instruction in a split classroom. Additional targeted mathematics interventions across all grade levels include the use of MobyMax, a computerized software intervention tool, and specific intervention sessions provided by classroom teachers which have been included in the master schedule.

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:
 - 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 continue to work to improve our writing scores as stated in last year's Annual Education Report by implementing Writing to Learn and Writing Across the Curriculum. The East Leroy Elementary community and greater Athens community are strong supporters of the educational programming at East Leroy Elementary. Support comes from all stakeholder groups and it is a joy to be working with parents and students! Staff has made great strides in incorporating targeted interventions in order to bolster achievement in literacy and math as indicated by data in Early Literacy and Math assessments. In addition, test scores continue to be strong and it is with great confidence and pride that the East Leroy staff continues work in preparing students for next steps in their educational career.

Sincerely,

Marvin Taylor,
Principal

**East Leroy Elementary Annual Report
2016-2017
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 second year of our 5 year District/School Improvement Plan. We are pleased with our progress in achieving the goals. We have six goals addressing Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies and student behavior. We are in the process of reviewing the 5 year plan.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Athens Area Schools do 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 92.6% of our parents attended parent/teacher conferences. Last year over 92% 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, Choir in Motion, 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 No Child Left Behind act.

Curriculum

Our Curriculum is based on the Michigan State Standards adopted by the State of Michigan. For more information on this, please visit our website at www.athensk12.org and select "academics".

East Leroy Elementary is in the second year of a 5 year plan. We are not content to be a great school with great test scores, but we want to strive to improve even on what we have. The educational success of all students is at the forefront of our improvement strategies.

In addition to the excellent educational opportunities provided by East Leroy Elementary, we offer a range of after school activities. After school programs include the East Leroy Choir, Girls on the Run, and Art Club. Students have additional opportunities for service in the Safety Patrol, Room Patrol, and in the Student Council.

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.