



Hale Area Schools
311 N. Washington
Hale, MI 48739
Telephone (989) 728-3551
Fax (989) 728-9551

March 7, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the Hale Area Schools District and our schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Superintendent Loren Vannest for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/a0Ju98>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. Each school will also be communicating their own AER to parents directly.

These reports contain the following information:

Student Assessment Data – Includes the following three assessments: M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), MI-Access (Alternate Assessment), and College Board SAT. Presents assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and science for grades 4, 7, and 11, compared to state averages for all students as well as subgroups of students. The report helps users to understand achievement performance within grades and schools, and to make comparisons to district, state, and national achievement benchmarks.

Accountability Scorecard – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability scorecard status.

Teacher Qualification Data

- Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels
- Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes

NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8

Review the table below listing our schools. For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Hale Elementary/Middle School	No Label	NWEA Assessments
Hale High School	Priority	NWEA Assessments

Parents could and should be involved in the following ways: encourage and require their children to attend, and to do their best when at school, regularly monitor their child's academic progress utilizing the skyward link, make contact and collaborate with teachers whenever they perceive less than satisfactory academic progress.

NWEA assessments implemented this year will provide more timely data that teachers can utilize to make in-year adjustments. NWEA assessments may also be used to gauge student academic growth and reward teachers who foster more than a year's growth in a year's time.

Hale Area Schools is making good progress improving student academic achievement. Composite (all subjects averaged) high school proficiency rate in 2016 was the highest in a decade. Composite (all subjects and grades) district proficiency rates (relative to statewide proficiency rates) have been at or near decade highs in each of the last three years. PSAT data indicates improving trends at the high school (11th grade testing) for at least a couple of years to come.

Sincerely,

Loren Vannest
 Superintendent
 Hale Area Schools