



School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

May 22, 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 Niles Community 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 Ann Bingham, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment 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/ZYyT3j>, 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 – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability index values showing school performance on a 0-100 scale.

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 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 status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Northside Child Development Center	None	Professional Learning Communities
Ballard Elementary School	None	Professional Learning Communities
Eastside Connections School	None	Professional Learning Communities
Howard-Ellis Elementary School	None	Professional Learning Communities
Ring Lardner Middle School	None	Professional Learning Communities
Niles High School	None	Professional Learning Communities
Cedar Lane Alternative School	None	Professional Learning Communities
Niles Adult Education	None	Professional Learning Communities
Southside School	None	Professional Learning Communities
WAY Niles	CSI	Professional Learning Communities

The Niles Community Schools takes pride in its' distinction as a District with diverse opportunities and dynamic learners who are driven to succeed. Differentiated instruction is commonplace in classrooms as we strive to meet the diverse needs of our students. We educate all students with excellent programs including, but not limited to preschool, special education, alternative education, online learning, homeschool, and adult education. To highlight a few, we offer programs in Montessori, Whole Brain Learning, Leveled Reading, Project Based Learning, and several others.

To extend the learning of our students beyond the school day and school year, we partner with several community service organizations to provide educational experiences that support the opportunities afforded in the classroom. During the school year, we offer several extended day learning opportunities and over the summer months, we offer the comprehensive and award winning Summer My Way program for K – 5 students.

For the 2018-19 school year, we are excited to continue and extend our work in Professional Learning Communities at all levels. This key initiative builds the capacity of our educators and will accelerate achievement as we inspire and prepare all learners through diverse opportunities to challenge the present and enrich the future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Applegate