



Linden Elementary
400 S. Bridge Street - Linden, MI 48451

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School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

March 10, 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 Linden 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 Vicki Makaravage for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/u9N5zM>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

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 label is given.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

According to the AER Combined Report, our M-Step scores are at or above the state and county averages. Linden Elementary School continues to focus on improved student achievement in core content areas: mathematics, reading, writing, social studies and language arts. Reading in the content areas is a priority for Linden Elementary. Our subgroup numbers are less than 10%, making use of data for those groups hard. One area we are focusing on is our economically disadvantaged households. To better meet the needs of these students, staff has been working with grade level teams to align

curriculum with instruction and develop common assessments that also align to standards. In addition, we provide additional academic instruction for those students who struggle in reading, and mathematics as well as social skills support. Students who are identified receive additional time in those instructional areas, with a focus on closing the achievement gap.

All Linden Community School students in Kindergarten through third grade attend one of two elementary schools. Students are assigned to these buildings on a geographical basis, as room allows. Students may be moved from one building to the other to avoid overcrowding of classes. We are currently in our fifth year of our School Improvement Plan focusing our goals on science, social studies, mathematics, reading and writing. Our district STAR assessments indicate 85-90% of our students are at or above grade level benchmarks. A copy of our core curriculum may be found in the main office of the building and our web page. Upon request, a copy of the curriculum will be provided. There are not variances from the state's curriculum model. Linden Elementary strives to achieve 100% participation in Parent/Teacher conferences. In fall of 2016 we had 93% participation.

Linden Elementary School staff strives to assure that Linden Elementary is a great place to be. Staff work collectively to assure a viable curriculum is delivered to our students. Staff participates in annual professional development, conferences and workshops to stay on the cutting edge. Our balance emphasis on academic achievement, extracurricular activities, and positive relationships creates an atmosphere of success for all students. I commend our teaching staff for their professionalism and excellence in education as well as our students and parents for their dedication to the pursuit of academic excellence. We look forward to an exceptional 2017-2018 school year!

Sincerely,

Vicki Makaravage

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