



2720 Riverside Drive, PO Box 5013 • Port Huron, MI 48061-5013  
(810) 984-3101 • Fax (810) 984-6606 • [www.phasd.us](http://www.phasd.us)

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

March 13, 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 Garfield 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 Ms. Christine Teff, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/zB5jco>, 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 and has been released from the Focus School status.

The Garfield instructional team continues to increase the level of cognitive demand from our students through the development of teaching and learning priorities. Our students are benchmarked 3 times a year to measure their literacy growth but they continue to struggle with deeper level comprehension tasks. In kindergarten through second grade our staff is modeling active reading strategies. In grades 3-5 our students are asked to use "Mark it Up" strategies to show they are thinking while reading.

In writing we are particularly focused on research skills. Our staff is teaching our students how to utilize a note taking matrix, how to cite evidence and finally how to evaluate multiple sources of information.

Our students are not yet proficient when asked to answer multiple step math problems. They struggle with the real world relationships and the higher level thinking that is required. Students have been introduced and continue to practice using the DEAL to answer challenging word problems. Math fluency continues to be a focus in all grade levels. Our teachers strive to provide individualized instruction for both math extension and remediation.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

### **Pupil Assignment Process for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 School Years**

Students in the Port Huron Area School District are assigned and enrolled as follows:

Students in Kindergarten through 5th grades are assigned to 10 elementary schools - Cleveland, Crull, Edison, Garfield, Indian Woods, Keewahdin, Kimball, Michigamme, Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson - based on outlined attendance areas. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are similarly divided among Central Middle School, Fort Gratiot Middle School and Holland Woods Middle school.

Port Huron Area School District had Michigan Great Start School Readiness Program grant funded pre-school instruction for early childhood students in several elementary buildings.

Port Huron High School and Port Huron Northern High School served students in grades 9 through 12.

The Port Huron Area School District had a policy and process in place for both in-district and county/contiguous Schools of Choice requests. Copies of the policy and procedures are available throughout the District, in publications and at the administration building.

### **Specialized Schools and Alternative Education**

- Harrison Center offers an alternative high school program, credit recovery, adult education, and an Education Continuity Program for expelled students.
- St. Clair TEC offers countywide career and technical training to high school students.

- Woodland Developmental Center serves students with severe learning disabilities to age 26.

### **Status of Our School Improvement Plan (3-5 Year Plan)**

Our school improvement plan is closely aligned with our school wide goals. In order to build strong relationships with students we have included mentoring with discussion centered around students' leadership notebooks.

Our staff models goal setting, creating an action plan and charting their own progress. Our SIP addresses personalized learning through the use of student goal setting and student monitoring of their own progress. To extend student learning we are incorporating grade appropriate problem based learning activities that integrate the use of technology. We are focused on closing the achievement gap in the area of math and literacy but also strive to continue to advance our highest achieving students. We have been implementing a daily Reteach and Extend block. We monitor our students' learning through the use of quick quizzes and end of unit assessments to determine whether a student qualifies for remediation in a specific skill or needs opportunities for extension. Grade level meetings centered around data dialogues have required our instructional team to reflect, analyze and determine our next steps with the goal of helping out students to meet their proficiency targets.

### **Core Curriculum**

The core academic curriculum is the foundation of the Port Huron Area School District's instructional program. It defines the outcomes to be achieved by all students and is based on the District's educational mission and goals. The District's purpose is to enable students to meet or exceed state requirements for achievement, with an ongoing emphasis that encourages academic excellence for all students.

Our curriculum is based on the [Michigan Academic Standards](#) approved by the State Board of Education. As part of the core instruction, curriculum is aligned and written to support the implementation of the state expectations. It has been developed and written by Port Huron Area School District teachers, administrators and consultants who specialize in curriculum development. Curriculum for the core courses is reviewed annually. Revisions and adjustments are made as needed in order to ensure appropriate alignment and pacing. You may contact your child's school or the Instructional Services Department to review a copy of the core curriculum for a particular grade.

A balanced assessment system is also a core part of the curriculum. Assessments are given in the core curriculum to monitor student progress toward grade level expectations. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing from NWEA provides a measure of student growth in reading, grammar, and math as well as tools with which to support classrooms and individual students.

**Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Assessment:  
NWEA MAP-NorthWest Evaluation Association Measures of Progress**

[District Fall 2015 - Spring 2016](#)

[District Fall 2014 - Spring 2015](#)

[District Fall 2013 - Spring 2014](#)

[School Fall 2015 - Spring 2016](#)

[School Fall 2014 - Spring 2015](#)

[School Fall 2013 - Spring 2014](#)

**Parent-teacher conference rate**

2014-15 98%

2015-16 97%

2016-17 98%

Our staff continues to implement Leader in Me with the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Leaders. Staff provide opportunities for students to set and reflect upon their learning through personal and academic goals. Students have real world opportunities to practice leadership skills including our Student Lighthouse Team, building leadership roles, service-learning projects called "Gators Giving Back", classroom leadership roles and speaking parts in our bi-weekly school leadership celebrations and on Leadership Day. We are proud to be 1 of only 144 Leader in Me schools in the state of Michigan.

The Garfield staff continues to focus on quality work and high levels of thinking. The Garfield staff is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment where students are empowered to find the leader within.

Sincerely,

Christine Teff  
Principal, Garfield Elementary School