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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 Keewahdin 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 Mr. Charles Lesser, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/NyFCZY> 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.

The staff at Keewahdin has worked diligently over the past year to increase student achievement and foster a positive learning environment for our students. There are

areas that we still need to focus on and present us with a number of challenges. Academically, while we have seen growth in the area of reading, we need to continue our work there. During the upcoming school year we will continue to look at our data and develop interventions to support our students. We will also continue our professional development activities using building, district and RESA staff.

Until all of our academic areas make the growth we know our students are capable of, we will continue with professional development in the areas of reading and math as well. We will develop our skills sets to provide additional support especially for the bottom 30 percent of our students that are struggling academically.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Pupil Assignment Process

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

Students are assigned to schools based on outlined attendance areas. Kindergarten through 5th grades are assigned to one of our 10 elementary schools - Cleveland, Crull, Edison, Garfield, Indian Woods, Keewahdin, Kimball, Michigamme, Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. 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 High School and Port Huron Northern High School serve students in grades 9 through 12.

Port Huron Area School District has a Michigan Great Start School Readiness Program grant funded pre-school instruction for early childhood students in several elementary buildings. The district also supports an Early Childhood Special Education program for qualified 3-5 year olds. Students in pre-Kindergarten programs are assigned based on enrollment in each program based classroom.

The Port Huron Area School District has 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 on the district website (<http://www.phasd.us/district/enrollment>), at each school, 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)

English Language Arts Improvement:

The staff continues to work diligently in this area. With the continued use of the Navigating Nonfiction books, there is a continued focus by the staff and awareness by the students of the importance of reading and interpreting nonfiction literature. As we continued with the use of the NWEA/Map assessments, we are better able to use the data to drive our reading instruction, develop small group instruction, and provide interventions for our struggling students. Our teachers continue to make excellent use of the 90 minute literacy block to ensure that adequate time is spent each day on reading related instruction. Writing instruction continues to be an area of focus for our staff. Time is spent in a variety of writing genres and with an increase in writing across the curriculum; journals are used in reading, math and science. Our intervention specialists continue to provide support in the areas of reading with an excellent Reading Recovery program as well as their small group instruction for our at risk students. During March is Reading Month, we again took part in the "One Book, One School" program and every family was given a copy of *Charlotte's Web* along with a reader's guide that included a calendar of when to read each chapter. To encourage reading and check for comprehension, questions for each chapter were asked daily over the morning announcements. Students were chosen from each classroom that had the correct answers and they received a reward. With the help of our district we purchased the Reading A to Z, an online reading library the student can use here at school or access at home for individual reading.

Math Improvement:

This was our seventh year with the Math Expressions series which means all of our students have been using the program since kindergarten. With the consistent use of this program and the increased use of small group instruction in math, we are confident students will show growth in our achievement scores. Several days of professional development on improving math instruction and math talk was provided by district and RESA consultants, this helped aid instruction and assisted our staff in providing additional math strategies for all of our students. The NWEA math data is used to help identify students in need of extra classroom support.

Science and Social Studies Improvement:

Keewahdin students continue to face challenges in the areas of Science and Social Studies. We have continued our effort to improve our student's knowledge in these areas by using trade books, nonfiction reading books, and teaching these areas more across the curriculum. By helping students to see the connections to real life situations and not just as separate subjects that they need to learn will increase their knowledge base as well as help improve their M-STEP test scores. This is a K-5 effort and must be used consistently to have the full effect we want. Numerous field trips are taken by various grade levels that reinforce the concepts taught in these two areas and help in demonstrating their relevance for the students.

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**

Port Huron Area Schools uses the NorthWest Evaluation (NWEA) Measures of Progress (MAP) to assess student growth in Reading, Language, and Math. MAP is an online, adaptive assessment which provides nationally normed data about student performance and growth. Results for this assessment may be viewed using the links provided below.

[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 97%

2015-16 96%

2016-17 97%

The 2015-2016 school year was a great one for the staff and students of Keewahdin Elementary. Using the wide variety of strengths the staff possesses and a willingness to work together, we continued our goal of building positive relationships with all of our students. From our Open House before school started in the fall till the last day of school in June, we put our students first in an ongoing effort to prepare them for the future. Our teachers continue to improve their guided reading lessons making them more effective and engaging. As a building we continue to promote a positive learning environment for our students, through our Husky Pride Ticket program. Our PTA contributes to our school helping to provide field trips, author visits, Science Alive and many other student oriented activities. Keewahdin is truly a great place where students come first.

Sincerely,

Charles Lesser
Principal, Keewahdin Elementary School