



January 31, 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 George Long 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 Michelle Clark at 517-867-5590 or [michelle.clark@grasslakeschools.com](mailto:michelle.clark@grasslakeschools.com) for assistance. The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site, <https://goo.gl/bWuu9q> 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 key challenges for Grass Lake Community Schools have been identified through our strategic planning process. The Six Goals that were established by the community members, administrators, teachers, business leaders and students involved in the process reflect the needs and challenges that the district must work on in both the short and long term. One of our goals has been to increase leadership opportunities for all students. This is the fourth year that we have had the Leader in Me process in our building and we are seeing an increase. We are also working on developing better writers so as to increase our writing proficiency. This is an area that we have struggled with. Another initiative that we are working on is providing more STEM opportunities for all students K-12. We have added a STEM class for all K-5 grade students. We have also increased the use of technology K-5 with our 1:1 technology initiative with Chromebooks to students in grades 2-5 and classroom sets of Ipads in grades K-1. A link to Grass Strategic Plan can be found

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at <http://bit.ly/12msztr>.

State law requires that we also report additional information which include the processes followed by the district for the previous two years. They are as follows:

The students of Grass Lake Community Schools attend one of three buildings in the district. Students in grades K-5 attend George Long Elementary, students in grades 6-8 attend Grass Lake Middle School, and students in grades 9-12 attend Grass Lake High School. The elementary has a 95% attendance rate for both fall and spring parent teacher conferences. Ongoing communication takes place throughout the year at teacher and parent request, newsletters, Schoology and email.

In addition to state testing, students in grades K-5 are assessed at the beginning, middle and end of the school year in math, reading, and writing using Fountas & Pinnell, Moby Max, common writing assessments and math unit tests, NWEA and M-Step state assessment. Additional information can be found at [www.mischooldata.com](http://www.mischooldata.com).

The School Improvement plans for the district and buildings have been completed and submitted. Grass Lake Community Schools uses components of the Baldrige continuous improvement model when developing, reviewing, and implementing the school improvement plans for each building. A District Leadership Team helps to ensure that the building and district plans are aligned. The district's teaching standards and benchmarks align with the Michigan Department of Education's Framework, including Common Core Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and Grade Level Content Standards for Social Studies K-8 and High School Content Expectations for grades 9-12. The Common Core Standards have been studied and are aligned with the district's core curriculum standards. More information can be found on our web site at [www.grasslakeschools.com](http://www.grasslakeschools.com).

In the spirit of continuous improvement, our teachers, administrators, and staff are ready to provide even greater rigor in an effort to improve upon an already impressive product.

Sincerely,

*Michelle M. Clark*

Principal

George Long Elementary