



REVISED 2016-17 TEMPLATE

District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 23, 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 William C. Abney Academy district and our 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 Ashanti Bryant, Superintendent of Schools, at (616)454-5541 for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.thewcaa.org>, 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 Scorecard – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability scorecard status.

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)

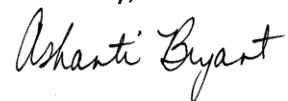
- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8

Review the table below listing our schools. For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named. 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 status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
William C. Abney Academy Elementary	NO Label	Staff Professional Development and Research based student intervention
William C. Abney Academy Middle School	NO Label	Staff Professional Development and Research based student intervention

The district is very encouraged by all the changes we have undergone this year. We are excited about the reform efforts that are taking place with our staff and our external educational service providers. Together we know we can live out our mission of creating a positive learning environment that fosters independence and inspires students to be self-motivated, life-long learners. We have partnered with many external partners to improve student achievement through staff development, innovative approaches to meeting student needs and providing the climate and culture conducive to learning. We have great new initiatives for engaging parents in the educational process.

Sincerely,



Ashanti Bryant
Superintendent of Schools
William C. Abney Academy