

District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

April 11, 2019

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2017-18 educational progress for the St. Joseph Public School District and individual buildings. 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 Kelly Gaideski, Curriculum Director for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [Annual Education Combined Report](#) 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 – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability index values showing school performance on a 0-100 scale.

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

For the 2017-18 school year, schools were identified using new definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A

Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. St. Joseph Public Schools' buildings did not receive any of these labels.

- Please note, the labels of TSI and ATS will have a new definition beginning next year per federal requirements. **TSI** will be a school that has at least one student sub-group performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component. **ATS** will mean the school has met the criteria for TSI and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI School.

For the 2017-18 school year, no buildings in SJPS received a label.

The St. Joseph Public Schools' community is dedicated to fulfilling our mission of inspiring life-long learners and creating tomorrow's leaders. With the use of research-based strategies like Professional Learning Communities, leading edge technologies, and innovative practices, we strive to provide the highest quality learning experiences for our students. Our students' academic achievement is a result of a strong home and school partnership coupled with an outstanding commitment to learning on the part of our students, staff, parents, and community. Together, we work to make SJPS a great place to learn.

Sincerely,



Ann M. Cardon
Superintendent