

Merrill Park Elementary School

2018–2019 Annual Education Report for 2017–2018 Progress

Ms. Cynthia Townsend, Principal

Annual Education Report

April 5, 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 Merrill Park. 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 Cynthia Townsend for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/2HgQiga>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2017-18 school year, schools were identified using 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 or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school has not been identified and has not been given one of these labels.

The key challenges for Merrill Park are declining academic achievement in the content areas of Science and Social Studies on the M-STEP Test. Specifically, on the Social

Studies test our students dropped 10% from 20% to 10% proficiency. Our Math scores also dropped in 3rd and 5th grades. Merrill Park's truancy rates are steadily falling below our goal of attaining a daily 90% attendance rating for the year. After reviewing and analyzing student data during our Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings, staff members have implemented several key initiatives that will help to improve student achievement, truancy and improve the Climate and Culture of the building.

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Our plan to accelerate student achievement and close gaps include: implementation of the Multi-Tiered Support System (MTSS) with Tier II intervention support provided by the classroom teacher and an Academic Interventionist along with intensive intervention support provided by our ELA and Math Title I teachers, newly acquired Truancy Abatement personnel, additional district funded core content-area resources and first-year (Phase I) implementation of the PBIS (Promoting Positive School Climate) Program.

As teachers meet during our weekly PLCs and once per month for a half-day Bank Day (PLCs), staff members continue to share best practices, strategies and analyze data from various reports in order to drive instruction within the classroom.

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Students are assigned by boundary area in the City of Saginaw. We also accept students, as part of the Schools of Choice process. Students attend Saginaw from the other boundary areas in the district, as well as other school districts in the county ISD area. School attendance boundaries are set by the SPSD Board of Education. Enrollment requests are considered in accordance with the following:

- Board Policy 8040 School Admissions
- Board Policy 8005 Open Enrollment (for students who reside within district boundaries)
- Board Policy 7950 Schools of Choice (for students who reside outside of district boundaries)

THE STATUS OF THE 3–5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Goals	Progress		
	Getting Started	Implementation	Monitoring
Goal 1: All students will increase their proficiency in English Language Arts & Social Studies.			
Strategies: Professional Learning		X	
Best Practices for All Students		X	
MTSS Process			X
Parent, School & Community Partnerships		X	

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Goal 2: All students will increase their proficiency in Math.			
Strategies: Professional Learning		X	
Best Practices for All Students		X	
MTSS Process			X
Parent, School & Community Partnerships		X	
Goal 3: All Students will increase their proficiency in Science.			
Strategies: Professional Learning		X	
Best Practices for All Students		X	
MTSS Process		X	
Parent, School & Community Partnerships	X		
Goal 4: Merrill Park will become a Stable and High Performing Organization to promote the success of All Students.			
Strategies: Professional Learning		X	
Best Practices for All Students		X	
MTSS Process		X	
Parent, School & Community Partnerships		X	

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF OUR SCHOOL

Merrill Park Elementary School is located at 1800 Grout Street which is located on the southwest side of Saginaw, Michigan. We are truly a neighborhood school, however, we do have several families that choose to participate in the district's Open Enrollment and School of Choice offerings in order to attend our school. Merrill Park's student enrollment numbers constantly fluctuate throughout the school year because we experience a great deal of mobility with our student population. We currently have 327 students enrolled in our Pre-Kindergarten through 6th grade classrooms. School attendance (specifically during the winter months) continues to be an on-going challenge with more than 30% of the student body attaining 10 or more absences. We currently have 17 highly qualified teachers, one secretary, one attendance improvement paraprofessional, one academic interventionist, one lunchroom hostess, one mental health therapist and one (in-house) Pathways to Potential personnel employed by the Department of Human Services. Throughout the school year, we offer opportunities for our parents and families to become involved and active in student learning. Our Parent Group is small; but very supportive and active when needed. Merrill Park continues

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to grow in building community partnerships with a variety of services/businesses throughout the Saginaw City community.

CORE CURRICULUM

The Michigan School Code requires every local school district to establish a core curriculum and an aligned instructional program. Teachers, instructional coaches, and administrators have collaborated to address core curriculum requirements by creating overarching questions and essential learning expectations for students, along with assessments and resources for four core content areas (English, Social Studies, Science and Math). SPSD obtains the curriculum from the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA), which provides college and career readiness units and resources that are aligned with the Michigan standards.

The Core Curriculum can be located on the Saginaw Public District's website:

Step 1: Go to www.spsd.net

Step 2: Click on Departments

Step 3: Click on Instructional Division

Step 4: Click on MAISA units

Step 5: To view and download the MAISA CCRS units, click on either the SEARCH or BROWSE buttons on the top of the page. You can use the SEARCH feature to find where a certain topic or skill is taught. The BROWSE button allows you to browse by grade level or subject area.

Or, click here: <https://gomaisa-public.rubiconatlas.org/Atlas/Public/View/Default>

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Please click on the link to access student achievement results:

<http://bit.ly/2HgQiqg>

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

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88% of Merrill Park parents attended Fall conferences and 56% of Merrill Park parents attended Spring Conferences.

COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

FOR HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY, ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

Description	Number	Percentage
NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)	N/A	N/A
THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)	N/A	N/A
THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)	N/A	N/A
THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT	N/A	N/A

Merrill Park staff continuously works collaboratively with each other and with our students and parents, district instructional coaches, central office personnel, and the Saginaw Intermediate School District in order to achieve short and long term goals. It is also our desire to continue to expand our portfolio of partnerships with assorted entities throughout the surrounding Saginaw community in order to meet the needs of our students and families. As the old proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child!" This witticism is still on-going even in today's society in order to prepare our students for the real world. We are committed to educating and moving our students closer to becoming noble and successful individuals in their near future. I would like to thank all of our stakeholders who continue to nurture and believe in our students; that instill the belief system that all things are possible with dedication, empathy, and support of providing the very best instruction and learning opportunities for our students in order to reach academic, social and emotional growth and realize that there is no limitation to what our youth can accomplish in their lifetime.

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Sincerely,

Cynthia Townsend