



Gordon Elementary MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A Rich Tradition of Excellence

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

March 13th, 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 Gordon Elementary School. 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 access the district website at <http://www.marshall.k12.mi.us> for additional information or contact Michael Leathead, principal at Gordon Elementary School for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site http://www.marshall.k12.mi.us/gordonelementary_home.aspx, 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.

For the 2016-2017, Gordon Elementary made AYP in all areas. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continually working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

At this time Gordon Elementary has a detailed school improvement plan that includes goals for English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science. The Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) system is an integrated part of each goal in order to provide for a positive school climate. The current plan, with some revisions, has been at place at Gordon for three years now. We are addressing an increase in our achievement gap across the grade levels but are very proud of our continued overall success. Our child study team is making a concerted effort this school year to specifically address the needs of our at risk students and provide early and effective interventions that will bring them up to proficiency level or higher. We use M-Step data to provide summative information on our school's progress and local/common assessments in math, writing, and reading to provide formative information to guide teachers' instructional decisions. More details on this can be found on the Marshall Public Schools website and/or the Superintendent's office.

Here is some additional information about Gordon Elementary.

1. Assigning pupils to school: The process we utilize for assigning pupils to our school revolves around the concept of neighborhood school boundaries as much as possible. Additionally, in order to maintain equity and an optimal learning environment, we place a strong emphasis on balancing our class sizes across all schools. To manage this we place students into our school that has the lowest class size.
2. School Improvement Plan: Our School Improvement Plan is a working document that drives our quest to continuously review, analyze, and adapt our instruction and curriculum to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. Our School Improvement Plan is utilized as a framework or map that drives our curricular expectations and instructional practices.
3. Specialized Schools: Currently, we do not provide a "specialized" school at our level, as we provide a positive and appropriate learning environment for all of our students.
4. Core Curriculum: Our core curriculum documents are available for review within each of our classrooms and our principal's office (as per subject and/or grade level). Grade Level and Content Expectations for all grade levels are also available for review on the www.michigan.gov/mde website. We continually review and refine our core curriculum documentation and instructional practices utilizing professional staff input committees. These committees bring forth any proposed curriculum changes to our Curriculum Council for review and possible approval. Curriculum Council recommendations then go before our school district Board of Education for approval. With Board approval, professional development (if needed) takes place for all pertinent staff members. Implementation within the classroom setting is supported, analyzed, and evaluated by grade-level teacher and administrative teams.
5. Student Achievement: We are proud of our student achievement results on both the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) and our grade-level core curriculum (Math, English Language Arts, Social Studies and Science) assessments. Over each of the last two years Gordon Elementary School performed better than the state average at every grade level and on every subject area tested

by the state. For example, the average number of students passing the third grade reading assessment in the state was 67% while over 89% of the students in third grade at Walters passed this assessment.

6. Parent/Teacher Conferences: Parent attendance to our fall and spring conferences has always been over 95%.

The staff and parents are very proud of the achievements of our students at Gordon Elementary School. We work collaboratively to ensure that all children experience a positive, caring, and rigorous learning environment. We are fortunate to have many volunteers support our school. Volunteers spend hundreds of hours each month working in our classrooms. We believe that all children will find success and learn in our school. We are committed to helping all children feel safe and we work diligently to help our students connect with staff and other children. At all levels we celebrate small steps and special accomplishments whether they are academic, social, athletic, or extracurricular as our children continue their journey of quality education within the Marshall Public Schools.

Sincerely,

Michael Leathead
Gordon Elementary Principal
Marshall Public Schools

Link to our [Annual Education Report](#)