



**Redford Union Schools**  
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Dr. Sarina Shivers, Superintendent

## **MacGowan Elementary School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

March 2, 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 MacGowan 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 contact Kathleen Robbins, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site, <http://www.redfordu.k12.mi.us/macgowan/> 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.

MacGowan Elementary School, a prek-1<sup>st</sup> grade building, has not been given one of the above labels as our students do not participate in any state assessment due to their young age. We do however have some key challenges to overcome. Many of our students enter school with oral language and self-regulation delays which impact their readiness for literacy and numeracy growth. We have implemented small group instruction in literacy and math using a workshop model in kindergarten and first grade. Students are given daily targeted lessons in both areas. Identified students

who are performing below the expected level for their age receive additional targeted interventions in literacy. Teachers have been engaged in professional development on researched based practices in guided reading and math instruction for the past two years.

An additional challenge for our school is attendance. Almost 50% of our students are chronically absent. We are continually working to improve attendance through a district wide attendance campaign. The district has contracted with an attendance liaison to work with students and families to improve attendance. A district protocol has been developed and will be implemented in the fall of 2017. MacGowan has implemented a process to contact parents and record contacts regarding truancy issues through phone calls, letters and face to face meetings

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL: All students who are kindergarten and first grade age residing in the Redford Union School District are assigned to MacGowan School. MacGowan School also houses the Redford Union School District Great Start Readiness Program for preschool at risk students. The GSRP students are selected based on the Michigan Department of Education guidelines.
2. STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: MacGowan School is a school wide Title 1 building and involved in a process of continuous improvement. We are dedicated to increasing the percentage of students who meet grade level expectations in literacy, numeracy and assisting them to develop the oral language and social skills necessary for future school success. All Title 1a funds are utilized to provide interventions to our at risk students. We are dedicated to building the foundation for learning success for our students. The school improvement plan is posted on our web site.
3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL: MacGowan School houses the kindergarten and first grade center program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the preschool, kindergarten and first grade center Program for Students with Hearing Impairments and the Preschool Special Education Program.
4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL: MacGowan School staff developed scope & sequence and pacing guides for Math and ELA which align with the Common Core. Each year these documents are

updated. We have developed a curriculum map in Science based on the Next Generation Science Standards. Parent can view a copy of our curricular documents upon request.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS:

All first grade students are given the Developmental Reading Assessment four times per year. 67% of our students were above grade level for the 2015-16 school year. This is a 15% increase from 2014-15. 49% of our Kindergarten students were reading at a level 3 by the end of the year as measured by the DRA.

Our first graders are administered the NWEA three times per year. 60% of our students met or exceeded their projected growth in reading which was a 16% increase from 2014-15. 86% of our first grade students met or exceeded their projected growth in math.

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES: 87% of our parents attended parent teacher conferences.

MacGowan School staff will continue with their commitment to provide every student with the educational experiences needed to achieve success. We recognize the importance of parent involvement to student achievement and strive to build a partnership between parents and staff in order to help every child succeed.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Robbins  
Principal, MacGowan Elementary School