



2720 Riverside Drive, PO Box 5013 • Port Huron, MI 48061-5013 • (810) 984-3101 • www.phasd.us

Garfield Elementary School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

April 22, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014-15 educational progress for Garfield 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 Christine Santer, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/Ztp3tS> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

The Garfield community continues to strive to close the achievement gap in both writing and math. Our students struggle when asked to compose a detailed writing piece. They do not yet have the writing stamina or confidence to write for long periods of time. Time standards are closely monitored to ensure adequate time for daily writing. Writing is evaluated by students, peers and staff based on a grade level appropriate 4 point rubric. Our students are not yet proficient when asked to answer multiple step math problems. They struggle with the real world relationships and the higher level thinking that is required. Our staff have received professional staff development in the utilization of the DEAL. Students have been introduced and continue to practice using the DEAL to answer challenging word problems. Our teachers strive to provide individualized instruction for both math extension and remediation.

State law requires that we also report the following additional information.

Pupil Assignment Process for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 School Years

Students in the Port Huron Area School District are assigned and enrolled as follows:

Students in Kindergarten through 5th grades are assigned to 10 elementary schools - Cleveland, Crull, Edison, Garfield, Indian Woods, Keewahdin, Kimball, Michigamme, Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson - based on outlined attendance areas. Students in grades 6, 7 and 8 are similarly divided among Central Middle School, Fort Gratiot Middle School and Holland Woods Middle school.

We will *advocate* for our students and families in partnership with our community to assure their success inside and outside of school; continuously *innovate* our practices and programs to improve student achievement; and *educate* in ways that are relevant, relationship driven, and rigorous.



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Port Huron Area School District had Michigan Great Start School Readiness Program grant funded pre-school instruction for early childhood students in several elementary buildings.

Port Huron High School and Port Huron Northern High School served students in grades 9 through 12.

The Port Huron Area School District had a policy and process in place for both in- district and county/contiguous Schools of Choice requests. Copies of the policy and procedures are available throughout the District, in publications and at the administration building.

Specialized Schools and Alternative Education

- Harrison Center offers an alternative high school program, credit recovery, adult education, and an Education Continuity Program for expelled students.
- St. Clair TEC offers countywide career and technical training to high school students.
- Woodland Developmental Center serves students with severe learning disabilities to age 26.

Status of Our School Improvement Plan (3-5 Year Plan)

Our school improvement plan is closely aligned with our school wide goals. We have included the Superintendent's Dropout Challenge and mentoring with discussion focused on students' leadership notebooks. Our SIP addresses personalized learning through the use of student goal setting and student monitoring of their own progress. To extend student learning we are incorporating grade appropriate problem based learning activities that integrate the use of technology. We are focused on closing the achievement gap in the area of math but also strive to continue to advance our highest achieving students. We have been implementing a daily Reteach and Extend block that follows the mastery learning loop in math. We monitor our students' learning through the use of quick quizzes and end of unit assessments to determine whether a student qualifies for remediation in a specific skill or opportunities for extension.

Core Curriculum 2014-15 and 2015-16 Academic Years

The core academic curriculum is the foundation of the Port Huron Area School District's instructional program. It defines the outcomes to be achieved by all students and is based on the District's educational mission and goals. The District's purpose is to enable students to meet or exceed state requirements for achievement, with an ongoing emphasis that encourages academic excellence for all students.

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Our curriculum is based on the [Michigan Academic Standards](#) approved by the State Board of Education. As part of the core instruction, curriculum is aligned and written to support the implementation of the state expectations. It has been developed and written by Port Huron Area School District teachers, administrators and consultants who specialize in curriculum development. Curriculum for the core courses is reviewed annually. Revisions and adjustments are made as needed in order to ensure appropriate alignment and pacing. You may contact your child’s school or the Instructional Services Department to review a copy of the core curriculum for a particular grade.

A balanced assessment system is also a core part of the curriculum. Assessments are given in the core curriculum to monitor student progress toward grade level expectations. Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) testing from NWEA provides a measure of student growth in reading, grammar, and math as well as tools with which to support classrooms and individual students.

**Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Assessment:
NWEA MAP-NorthWest Evaluation Association Measures of Progress**

[District Fall 2015 - Winter 2016](#)
[District Fall 2014 - Spring 2015](#)
[District Fall 2013 - Spring 2014](#)

[School Fall 2015 - Winter 2016](#)
[School Fall 2014 - Spring 2015](#)
[School Fall 2013 - Spring 2014](#)

Parent-teacher conference rate

2014–15	98%
2015–16	97%

Garfield qualified for a five year grant to implement Leader in Me with the 7 Habits of Highly Effective Leaders. This model is closely aligned with positive behavior support programs used throughout our district. All staff were trained have be trained in setting school wide goals. These goals are closely aligned with our school improvement plan. Our staff has provided opportunities for students to set their own personal and academic goals.

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Students have also had real world opportunities to practice leadership skills at Garfield . Leadership activities included our Student Lighthouse Team, student greeters, student tour guides, service-learning projects, lunch buddy programs, playground leadership roles, classroom leadership roles and speaking parts in our bi-weekly school wide meeting and on Leadership Day. Students created Student Leadership Notebooks where they monitored their goals and reflected on their learning.

We reflect on our practices and strive to improve as educators. We look forward to the 2016-2017 school year when we will have an opportunity to be reviewed for Lighthouse status as a Leader in Me school. The Garfield staff continues to focus on quality work and high levels of thinking. The Garfield staff is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment where students are empowered to find the leader within.

Sincerely,

Christine Santer,
Principal, Garfield Elementary School

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