LUDINGTON AREA SCHOOLS

Administrative Offices

Jason J. Kennedy
Superintendent

Jesse Rickard
Director of Business Services

Foster Elementary School Annual Education Report (AER)

March 21, 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 Foster 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 Principal, Mr. Brian Dotson for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site http://bit.ly/2tFPof0, 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 given one of these labels.
From data in the combined report a key challenge that Foster Elementary School faces is reaching students in economically disadvantaged situations, particularly those with traumatic backgrounds. The data in the combined report, http://bit.ly/2tFPof0, shows that students that are economically disadvantaged were 42.4% proficient or advanced in reading. This is close to a 10% increase from the previous school year. To close this gap, the staff at Foster Elementary School participated in a yearlong book study using Dr. Nell Duke's, Not This, But That, series as well as past studies in trauma and poverty. Staff have also been working with the help of the HIL Grant and the Reading Now Network to close the gap in reading by developing consistent expectations and implementation of readers' and writers' workshop to ensure students have a complete and joyful literacy experience. Foster Elementary School also continued with a universal, Tier I, Positive Behavior Support Curriculum for 2017-2018, Be N.I.C.E. Be N.I.C.E. lessons are used in all classrooms as instruction on anti-bullying and suicide prevention.

809 E Tinkham Ave ✦ Ludington, Michigan 49431 ✦ Phone: (231) 845-7303 ✦ Fax: (231) 843-4930

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Foster Elementary School is the only upper elementary school in the district; this means all students in district attend Foster Elementary. Students transition from 2nd grade at Franklin Elementary (K-2) and Lakeview Elementary (K-2) to 3rd grade at Foster Elementary.

Foster Elementary School's school improvement plan is updated every year, but is currently in year two for the 2018-2019 school year. A team is comprised of administration and lead teachers that develop the school improvement plan using multiple sources of data including state assessment scores, parent, student and staff survey feedback, and local assessments.

Foster Elementary School has no specialized schools. We participate fully with the West Shore Educational Service District in specialized programming and instruction when available and applicable.

Ludington Area School District follows Common Core Curriculum for grades 3-5 in math and English Language Arts (ELA). In science, the school follows Michigan Next Generation Science Standards. Social Studies continue to follow GLCEs. To access a copy of core curriculum, visit the Foster School office or the curriculum link on our school's webpage, http://www.lasd.net/schools/foster-elementary/curriculum/.

Teachers also administer the Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) assessment as screening tools. All staff, including teachers, the reading specialist, and principal, analyze the results and develop interventions for students not meeting the expected score.

2015-2018 Percentage of Students At or Above Norm Grade Level Mean RIT (NWEA)

	Fall 2015 NWEA Math	Fall 2016 NWEA Math	Fall 2017 NWEA Math	Fall 2018 NWEA Math
3rd Grade	50%	53%	57%	55%
4th Grade	46%	49%	52%	41%
5th Grade	48%	46%	44%	52%

	Fall 2015 NWEA Reading	Fall 2016 NWEA Reading	Fall 2017 NWEA Reading	Fall 2018 NWEA Reading
3rd Grade	44%	57%	59%	59%
4th Grade	51%	50%	51%	58%
5th Grade	57%	40%	49%	60%

The 2016 fall Parent-Teacher conference attendance at Foster Elementary School was 97% with 483/499. The 2017 fall Parent-Teacher conference attendance at Foster Elementary School was 96% with 480/499. The 2018 fall Parent-Teacher conference attendance at Foster Elementary School was 95% with 428/449. We are proud of the connection that we maintain with our families. Parents/guardians are always welcome in the school and encouraged to spend time with us.

The staff at Foster Elementary has done much work around Dr. Nell Duke's book series, Not This, But That. Not This, But That is various books on topics of best practices that has a focus on reading instruction. The book study has been a great addition to our school environment and culture. The addition of the HIL grant has also helped align the school improvement efforts with the State of Michigan's Literacy Essential practices. The staff is pleased with student achievement and progress made toward our school improvement goals in 2017-18. We know that there is still much room for continuous improvement. School improvement goals for 2019-2020 are being developed for all core academic areas, with a focus on reading as we continue to collaborate with numerous West Michigan schools through the HIL grant and Reading Now Network. We are looking forward to an exciting and productive year!

Sincerely,

Brian Dotson, Principal
Foster Elementary School