



Gearing Elementary 2014-15 Annual Education Report

April 15, 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 the Gearing 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 Mrs. Lynda Crandall, building principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/WZvT0f> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

Gearing Elementary faced the challenge of increasing the achievement of our at-risk learners as well as increasing the proficiency of all students specifically in writing and reading comprehension. Title I program services were available and provided additional support for our at-risk learners. The use of writing rubrics, the collaborative scoring of student writing samples and the implementation of reciprocal teaching strategies helped to address the problem.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

East China School District has centralized enrollment that assigns students to a school based on residency boundaries established by the district. East China School District also participates in country-wide Schools of Choice.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Gearing Elementary engages in a continuous cycle of school improvement by conducting a comprehensive needs assessment, analyzing achievement trends, identifying areas of need and designing and implementing strategies to address the needs. We are in year three of a five year implementation cycle. The Gearing Elementary School Improvement Plan may be viewed in its entirety at www.ecsd.us/gre. Highlights include a positive trend in performance in all content areas with data supporting a positive impact on student achievement.

Mission Statement: “Educating Today’s Children for Tomorrow’s World”

School Improvement Goals:

- All students will demonstrate proficiency in writing.
- All students will demonstrate proficiency in mathematics.
- All students will demonstrate proficiency in reading.

Progress toward Goals:

- Common grade level planning periods offered opportunities to share, discuss, and disaggregate data to improve instruction.
- Common math vocabulary, implementation of math talk, and an emphasis on problem solving skills became an integral part of instruction across all grade levels to increase the understanding of mathematical concepts.
- Classroom teachers continued to implement a Writer’s Workshop model to develop improved writing skills at all grade levels.
- Extended learning opportunities were provided for at-risk learners in both reading and mathematics through before and after-school intervention sessions.
- Classroom teachers collaborated with Title I staff to support at-risk learners.
- The use of the Smart Board and other technology implementations has contributed to engaging academic instruction.
- An optional grade level specific skills workbook was offered to parents to provide their child with summer practice in order to extend learning and avoid the summer slump.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Gearing Elementary implements the East China School District learning standards and provides instruction students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. The standards incorporate the core subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies and are designed to challenge students to achieve their highest potential. The student population also encompasses a district program for younger elementary cognitively impaired students.

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

The K-12 core academic curriculum describes what a student will know and be able to demonstrate after instruction in a particular subject. East China School District develops rigorous and aligned curricula, using the State of Michigan's core curriculum and Common Core State Standards as models when reviewing and developing content areas. Grade level and/or course content expectations are developed in each content area and instructional strategies are created along with pacing guides for instruction and assessments to measure proficiency. A copy of the core curriculum may be obtained by contacting the East China School District Department of Instruction at 810.676.1010.

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

The academic progress of students in kindergarten through fifth grade is evaluated by district common assessments and reported four times annually via student report cards. Students in grades three through five also take the M-STEP test annually. Please refer to the linked report for specific scores and achievement trends.

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

An important means of communication is through annual parent-teacher conferences. During the 2014-15 school year, 95% of Gearing Elementary School students' parents/guardians attended fall parent teacher conferences. During the 2015-16 school year, 98% of students' parents/guardians attended.

In conclusion, we are very proud of our students' achievements this year. We commend the students, staff and parents for their support and look forward to continued progress in the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

