



Palms Elementary School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

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 Palms 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 Mike Domagalski, building principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/W9Gtao> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

Key challenges for Palms Elementary include narrowing the gaps in achievement. There is a pocket of students, mostly due to a low economic demographic, that performs lower than grade level in many areas. Certain intervention programs have been established such as Reading Rocks, Magnificent Math, and Super Summer Reading. In addition, technology has been put as the forefront to provide accelerated students, and these underperforming students, the opportunity to narrow the gap as well as learn in a differentiated way. In all, opportunities are provided for all sub groups to expand their thinking and increase achievements across the board.

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

Palms Elementary engages in a continuous cycle of school improvement; conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and analyzing achievement trends, identifying areas of need and designing and implementing strategies to address the needs. The Palms Elementary School Improvement Plan may be viewed in its entirety at www.ecsd.us/pme. Highlights include:

Vision Statement:

Perform
Achieve
Lead

Master
Succeed

Mission Statement: “The Palms community is committed to preparing students for their future as global citizens and life-long learners.”

2014-15 School Improvement Goals:

- All students will demonstrate proficiency in reading as indicated on the M-STEP test.
- All students will demonstrate proficiency in writing as indicated on the M-STEP test .
- All students will demonstrate proficiency in math as indicated on the M-STEP test.

Progress toward Goals:

✓ **Reading**

- Whole school implementation of The Reader’s Workshop model.
- Use of common vocabulary and strategies by all teachers of Reading.
- Professional Learning Community focuses on Reader’s Workshop.
- A building focus on comprehension strategies.
- Common prep time for grade level sharing, discussion and disaggregating of data.
- Frequent use of assessment data to drive instruction.
- Themed “March Is Reading Month” activities to enhance enjoyment of reading.

✓ **Writing**

- All teachers instruct using the Writer’s Workshop model.
- Identification of “details in examples” as a common area of need.
- Focus on strategies to develop use of “details in examples”.
- Use of rubrics to score writing.
- Staff meeting time devoted to enhancing teacher scoring ability.

✓ **Math**

- Use of common district math assessments.
- Before and after school support classes for targeted students.
- Use of Calendar Math to support learning.
- Analysis of formative and summative classroom assessment errors to drive instruction.
- Smart Board instruction for engaging learning and support activities.
- Use of effective questioning strategies to increase understanding.
- Extensive technology used for differentiation and remediation instruction.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Palms 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.

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, 99% of Palms Elementary School students' parents/guardians attended fall parent teacher conferences. During the 2015-16 school year, 99% of students' parents/guardians attended.

In conclusion, we are very proud of our students' achievements this year and are looking forward to continued progress in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Domagalski
Palms Elementary, Principal