



Nelson Elementary · 550 W. Grand Avenue · Muskegon, MI 49441 · (231) 720-2200
School Annual Education Report (AER)

May 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for Nelson Elementary. 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 Brian Gamm for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [MI School Data](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 school year, schools were identified using new 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. 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.

Pupil Assignment:

Muskegon Public Schools follows the Michigan Department of Education's pupil accounting manual to determine the assignment of students to the school. Students are placed at the student's "District of Residence." This is defined as the "district in which a pupil's custodial parent or parents or legal guardian resides." In addition, Muskegon Public Schools participates with other Muskegon County School Districts in choice program, which follows the MDE's Pupil Accounting Manual, "Section 105 and 105c Schools of Choice Pupils."

School Improvement Plan Status:

Nelson is currently in its 4th year of implementing its Transformation plan. All staff have gone through the required PD from the plan, and it is in full implementation. We are monitoring the implementation of the plan by administrator observations, peer walkthroughs, and lesson plan overviews.

Nelson School faces several key challenges and are taking steps toward implementing key initiative designed to accelerate student achievement and close persistent gaps in student achievement. These key challenges and initiatives are represented in the following “Big Ideas:”

Big Idea 1:

Nelson students and staff will improve the overall climate and culture of the building. Nelson teachers continue to develop their depth of knowledge and implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) and CHAMPS for creating a positive and proactive approach to climate and culture. The staff has been focused on developing and implementing strategies to reduce referrals by helping students to develop the strategies and skills to solve problems in a healthy and proactive manner. Staff is continually reviewing data to make decisions that will increase positive outcomes for and with students. PBIS reward assemblies are also conducted to recognize students for outstanding behavior. Through the SIG Nelson School hired a climate and culture coach to provide job embedded professional learning for the staff.

Big Idea 2:

Nelson students and staff will improve in Tier 1 instructional delivery. All staff are implementing the MAISA Reading Units of Study. We have a reading coach at Nelson to provide job embedded professional development with the implementation of reader’s workshop. For math, we are implementing Everyday Math. Teachers are receiving ongoing district-wide professional development. We have instructional coaches that provide additional training in unpacking the standards to develop a deeper understanding of the concepts they are teaching. We have implemented comprehension strategies and response to text with Thinking Maps to help improve Tier 1 instruction. Instructional Teachers are also implementing Instructional Learning Cycle through Professional Learning Communities to help guide data driven instruction.

Core Curriculum:

The curriculum at Nelson Elementary provides learning experiences in all areas of language arts (reading, writing, speaking, listening), mathematics, social studies, science, technology, physical education, art, and music. Major portions of the curriculum have been revised over the last few years. The Board-approved Core Curriculum of Muskegon Public Schools is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for reading, writing, and math, as well as the Grade Level Content Expectations for science and social studies. A complete copy of the curriculum and instructional program is available for review on the Muskegon Public Schools Website.

Parent Involvement:

One of the central reasons for the success of Nelson School is the support and involvement of parents in the school as well as in their own children's education. Nelson School's parent liaison is helping bring parents into the school. We have many parents involved throughout the year assisting in classrooms. Our parents support our school by their attendance at events such as our Fall Open House, classroom writing celebrations, activity nights, and celebration of learning.

Participation in Parent-Teacher conferences:

Fall 2014: 77% out of 300 students
 Spring 2015: 80% out of 279 students
 Fall 2015: 76% out of 258 students
 Spring 2016: 64% out of 334 students
 Fall 2016: 82% out of 361 students
 Spring 2017: 66% out of 321 students

Student Achievement:

Each teacher employs a variety of ways to measure and report student progress, including report cards. Students are formally assessed for progress in math and language arts curriculum throughout the year using district assessment instruments, and the I-Ready online assessment for reading and math. Students are also given additional reading assessments using the Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System. Required assessments are given at appropriate grade levels.

NWEA MAP Mathematics Fall 2014 to Spring 2017

Grade	Mean RIT Score Fall 2014	Mean RIT Score Spring 2015	Mean RIT Score Fall 2015	Mean RIT Score Spring 2016	Mean RIT Score Fall 2016	Mean RIT Score Spring 2017
0	134.2	153.9	133.3	146.1	134.3	153.7
1	150.8	170.4	158.1	168.8	154.6	167.3
2	165.5	180.0	173.1	181.4	168.0	187.8
3	172.9	187.0	168.2	179.5	173.4	187.2
4	186.4	197	184.2	192.6	184.2	194.9
5	188.6	201.2	194.7	201.1	196.0	201.4
6	200.4	208.8	197.8	200.9	201.8	215.0

NWEA MAP Reading Fall 2014 to Spring 2017

Grade	Mean RIT Score Fall 2014	Mean RIT Score Spring 2015	Mean RIT Score Fall 2015	Mean RIT Score Spring 2016	Mean RIT Score Fall 2016	Mean RIT Score Spring 2017
0	139.8	153.5	140.0	149.0	137.1	151.8
1	147.3	167.9	155.3	168.7	153.7	164.5
2	162.7	175.0	166.4	175.1	165.1	180.2
3	170.6	181.8	167.0	175.5	166.3	178.1
4	188.2	196.3	183.8	191.8	178.6	189.1
5	190.6	201.8	192.0	201.7	189.9	199.5
6	202.6	208.7	197.2	200.3	198.6	209.8

Great news! Nelson Elementary is no longer a Priority School! As you may recall, approximately three years ago, Nelson was identified as a Priority School based on our students' performance on the state's M-Step tests. The M-Step measures academic performance in reading, writing and math for students in grades 3-8. Students also take science and social studies tests in fifth and eighth grade. Losing the Priority School label is an early sign that the hard work our staff and students have been putting in is starting to pay off. The future is bright at Nelson!

Nelson's change in status stems from an overhaul in how the state identifies struggling schools. While we are incredibly pleased that Nelson has shed the Priority School label, we are now faced with a new set of challenges. The state's M-Step assessment will still be the biggest piece of the puzzle, representing close to 75 percent of Nelson's overall score. Nelson's future M-Step performances will be broken into two categories: growth and proficiency.

The student growth category measures the improvement of our students from year-to-year while the second M-Step category measures our student's overall proficiency against a state-determined target. Graduation rates as well as the performance of English Language Learners are also categories that go into a school's score. These two areas will not impact Nelson's score as we do not have any graduating students nor do we have a significant population of English Language Learners.

The final two categories of the state's new accountability system are assessment participation (we need 95 percent of students to participate in M-Step testing) as well as a category referred to as "School Quality." The School Quality category looks at student attendance as well as other

factors such as our students' access to the arts and physical education classes. These accountability requirements are still quite new, so our staff will be studying the state's revised system to determine how the changes impact our school improvement work and future planning.

If you would like more information, please click on:

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/MI_School_Index_System_Guide_614557_7.pdf.

You are always welcome to contact me at 231-720-2201 to discuss the state's new accountability requirements or anything else that is impacting your child's academic future. Thank you for your continued support and Go Big Reds!

Dr. Brian Gamm
Principal
Nelson Elementary