

## **School Annual Education Report (AER)**

March 3, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provided key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for Asher 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 Leonard Samborski, Director, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site, <https://goo.gl/SnleSO>, or you may review a copy in the Asher School main office.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus Schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of the schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the schools predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given.

In the past years Asher School was not identified as a Reward, Focus, or Priority School due to our classification as a non-traditional public school. Asher School serves a population that is 100% at-risk and accepts students from 22 different school districts throughout the Downriver area. Students who attend Asher are most often off-track students who have considerable gaps in their education due to transiency, homelessness, teen parenting, and learning and emotional disabilities. Many Asher students have attended multiple high schools throughout their educational career and in many cases have personal, medical, or situational issues that have prohibited them from attending traditional high school regularly or having success at traditional high schools.

However, due to methods now used to rank schools Asher student performance was compared to those students at traditional high schools. As a result of this new method of comparison Asher was identified as a 2015 Priority School.

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We did not test 95% of our students.

- Target achievement goals were not met in writing.
- Target achievement goals were not met in science.
- Target achievement goals were not met in mathematics.
- We did not attain the targeted graduation rate goal.

During the first year a school is identified as a Priority school, the district is required to develop a reform/redesign plan for the school with a goal of rapid turnaround in student outcomes and achievement. Asher School submitted a Transformation Plan to the State School Reform/Redesign Office. Three Main Ideas were developed and approved by stakeholders to change the teaching and learning at Asher.

1. Implementation of the 5D+ Teaching and Learning Instructional Framework
2. Increasing post-secondary opportunities that lead to a seamless transition from a high school diploma/GED to career training programs including community college/university enrollment.
3. Increasing community partnerships that will provide much needed support services to our shared students and community.

Recognizing the unique social, emotional, and academic challenges of the Asher School population key initiatives for improve include working on eliminating barriers to education, focusing on Transformation Plan/School Improvement goals in reading, writing, and math, and providing additional opportunities especially in our special education sub groups. Initiatives to remove barriers to education for our students includes: social worker services, free and reduced breakfast and lunch, state licensed pre-school, tutoring, on site career training programs, career readiness and job placement services through the Southgate Michigan Work office.

Asher School follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum and is aligned to the Common Core State Standards, MSTEP Learning Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards. Through the implementation of the 5D+ Teaching and Learning Framework the Asher School is staff is focusing on our Transformation Plan and our school improvement goals in reading, math and writing. The Asher School program continues to provide specific low level classes for students who struggle in reading and math and regular semester assessments track academic improvement.

### **Process for assigned students to Asher School**

Asher School is an alternative high school program provided by Southgate Community Schools to students living in the Downriver area. The student population is 100% at-risk and represents a diverse population of 16 to 21-year old students who have not been

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successful at their traditional high school(s) and are attempting to earn a high school diploma. Students are not assigned to the school but apply and following an interview with the social worker, most students are accepted into the program.

### **The status of the 3-5 year School Improvement Plan**

Recognizing that students in the Asher school come from 20-22 school districts with gaps in their traditional schooling, the Asher School Staff has developed a Transformation Plan and School Improvement Plan that addresses students' needs in reading, math and writing. All students are pre-assessed using the standardized Test of Adult Basic Education to determine basic levels in reading and math. Students are placed in classes by Academic Advisors after their scores have been assessed. On the first day of class, students are given a local pre-assessment to determine reading and math ability and post tests are used to measure progress over the improvement plan to improve reading and math skills.

### **A Brief Description of each Specialized School**

Asher School is an alternative high school program created to serve students in the Downriver area who have not been successful in a traditional setting. The program provides wrap around support services for students who require alternative methods of instruction, flexible scheduling, childcare support, academic interventions and individualized attention.

### **Curriculum and Common Core State Standards**

The curriculum at Asher School follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for graduation found at [Michigan.gov/documents/med](http://Michigan.gov/documents/med). The School Improvement Team and Asher staff have worked to incorporate Common Core State Standards into the Asher curriculum as found at [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org). Staff complete lessons plans weekly and reference the plans to the Common Core State Standards.

### **Information about local assessments**

All students take common formative and summative assessments in their daily courses. Student data is derived from local assessments including the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) and pre and post assessments linked to school improvement goals in reading and math.

### **Parent Teacher Conference Data**

Students at Asher School register for classes for Fall and Winter Semesters. Progress Reports are sent out during the first 6 weeks and then the 11th week of school. Parent

teacher conferences are the 6th week of school during each semester and over the past 2 years we have averaged 40 parents in attendance or approximately 12% of the parents attended. All parents are encouraged to participate and parents are welcome to request a meeting with teachers and/or the Director at any time.

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**Post-Secondary and /or college accredited courses/Dual enrollment**

Asher School currently does not have any students who dual enroll in post-secondary programming and does not offer AP courses.

The staff and administration of Asher School are committed to providing the best possible programming for the unique and diverse population attending Asher School. We continue to work through our school improvement plan and now also our State Reform Transformation Plan, to demonstrate achievement in reading, math and writing while overcoming barriers to education for all of our students. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the programming at Asher School, please contact Leonard Samborski, Director, Southgate Adult and Community Education/Asher School.

Sincerely,

*Leonard A. Samborski*

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Director Adult & Community Education  
Asher School

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*Southgate Schools: The best choice for parents and students.*