

MARQUETTE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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William Saunders, Superintendent

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2018-19 Sandy Knoll Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

March 5, 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 Sandy Knoll. 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 Kevin Hooper for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [Annual Education Combined Report](#) 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.

* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.

ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school.

Our school has not been given a label by the State of Michigan.

Closing the achievement gap is a key challenge for schools today. Our school reviews all the M-STEP data provided for the AER along with district level student achievement data to identify areas of need for specific improvement. A team of teachers and staff meet several times throughout the year to identify the achievement gaps and discuss strategies for improving student achievement. Students who need extra support receive targeted support in a small group reading and math teams. In addition, all classrooms have integrated iPad or Chromebook technology to further support the learning needs of students.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Pupil Assignment – The Marquette Area Public School District has identified attendance areas for each building as well as a policy and process to address parents' schools of choice requests. Copies of this policy and procedures are available at each building principal's office as well as the central administration office. Parents have been notified of the policy and process for schools of choice requests.

The Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan – A plan for continuing school improvement efforts has been in effect since 1991-92. Implementation and evaluation are ongoing. The school improvement plan is updated annually to reflect progress on identified goals and to address changing needs.

Specialized Schools - The Marquette Area Public School District has an Adult Basic Education program and an alternative high school program. Sandy Knoll is not a specialized school.

Core Curriculum – We fully follow the State of Michigan approved curriculum standards. All students at Sandy Knoll receive core instruction in the areas of ELA, math, science, and social studies. In addition, all students (K-5) receive instruction in art, music, physical education, and technology. We have implemented core instructional resources in math and social studies. We are in the study/plan phase with the English-Language Arts curriculum resources. We are also in the process of continuing to move forward with the new State of Michigan NextGen Science standards. A copy of the core curriculum is available on the Marquette Area Public Schools website -- www.mapsnet.org.

Parent Teacher Conferences – The percentage of parents who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences in 2018 was 96.3% with 364 conferences attended. The percentage of parents who attended Parent-Teacher Conferences in 2017-18 was 96.3% with 364 conferences attended.

Career Readiness - Sandy Knoll students are provided exposure to multiple careers fields through guest speakers, field trips, and exposure through classroom instruction. Examples include STEM, Conservation, Fire Fighters, Police, Agriculture, Technology, Communication, Music and the Arts.

Student Achievement Results – Sandy Knoll Elementary School uses the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Assessment as a district assessment tool in grades K-5 in the areas of reading and mathematics.

Math:

	Spring, 2018	Spring, 2017	National Norm
Kindergarten	172.6	171.8	159.1
1st Grade	187.3	183.4	180.8
2nd Grade	203.2	193.4	188.7
3rd Grade	205.4	208.6	203.4
4th Grade	217.1	219.8	213.5
5th Grade	232.5	230.3	221.4

Reading:

Kindergarten	167.3	164.3	158.1
1st Grade	181.0	179.6	177.5
2nd Grade	198.9	200.8	192.1
3rd Grade	201.7	204.2	198.6
4th Grade	210.4	214.7	205.9
5th Grade	220.4	216.8	211.8

Student performance at Sandy Knoll Elementary School continues to exceed the state and national averages. We will continue to strive to improve and we are grateful for the support of our parents and school community in that effort.

Sincerely,

Kevin Hooper
Sandy Knoll Principal