



SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

465 S. UNION ST., SPARTA, MI 49345
616-887-8253 / Fax 616-887-9958 / www.spartaschools.org

PETE BUSH
Superintendent
MATTI SULLIVAN
Finance Director
JOEL STONER

Exec. Director of Student & Academic Services

January 10, 2022

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2020-21 educational progress for the Sparta Area Schools and our schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Joel Stoner at joel.stoner@spartaschools.org for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <https://bit.ly/3omssMm> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. Each school will also be communicating their own AER to parents directly.

These reports contain the following information:

Student Assessment Data – Includes the following three assessments: M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), MI-Access (Alternate Assessment), and College Board PSAT and SAT. Presents assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and science for grades 5, 8, and 11, compared to state averages for all students as well as subgroups of students. The report helps users to understand achievement performance within grades and schools, and to make comparisons to district, state, and national achievement benchmarks.

Accountability – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability index values showing school performance on a 0-100 scale.

Teacher Qualification Data

- Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels
- Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes

NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8



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Review the table below listing our schools. For the 2020-21 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 status label is given.

Sparta Area Schools has no schools that are identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), Additional Targeted Support (ATS), or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools.

Sparta Area Schools seeks to meet the needs of all students and to fully prepare them for the challenges of a changing world and an increasingly diverse global economy. We also strive to provide our students with the skills to become lifelong learners, critical thinkers, caring citizens, and responsible members of our democratic society. We endeavor to not only prepare our students for the academic rigor of college, but to empower them with the character, discipline, and skills they need to succeed in the professional workforce or their chosen career.

Our district Mission is... *to provide high quality educational opportunities to ensure success for all learners.* While there are many determiners of success, it is our goal to have all students in all subgroups meet the annual measurable performance objectives, graduation rates, attendance rates and student participation rates designated by the State of Michigan for District and Building-level accreditation. Our primary goal is to continuously pursue and develop educational programs of quality and excellence, while seeking help and support from the entire school community. As a result, we encourage your active involvement in curricular and extracurricular programs, services, and activities, and we welcome your feedback. It is our belief that with such a partnership, our district can prepare all of our students for lifelong learning and success.

As an educational community, we must work in unison to support our students and families so that we can indeed ensure success for all. Each of us is encouraged to seek and engage in activities which promote and support the educational welfare and success of our students. Please join us in making a positive difference for all of our students!

Sincerely,

Pete Bush
Superintendent, Sparta Area Schools