



## SPARTA AREA SCHOOLS

465 S. UNION ST., SPARTA, MI 49345  
616-887-8253 / Fax 616-887-9958 / [www.spartaschools.org](http://www.spartaschools.org)

**PETE BUSH**  
*Superintendent*  
**Matti Sullivan**  
*Finance Director*  
**JOEL STONER**  
*Exec. Director of Student & Academic Services*

February 13th, 2022

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2020-2021 educational progress for Sparta Middle 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 Joel Stoner at [joel.stoner@spartaschools.org](mailto:joel.stoner@spartaschools.org) for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/38IRLZH> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2020-2021 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 was not identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school, an Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school or Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school.**

While Sparta Middle School has consistently outperformed districts in our region and across the state of Michigan since the adoption of the M-Step, we have identified social studies and mathematics as areas where students' performance on the M-Step has been level over the past three testing cycles. It is clear that we have an opportunity to grow our students' learning in these key academic areas, especially in light of the last two years of dealing with the complex side effects on students' education related to the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, the significant impact that this has had on students' attendance and having to learn in a remote environment for extended periods of time. To address our students' learning needs, we continue the work of adopting a more rigorous curriculum as needed and aligning it to the standards and benchmarks



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prescribed. For example, our Social Studies teachers have spent the past three school years unpacking and implementing the MAISA units of instruction, developing a common scope and sequence at each grade level and are now working to develop their capacities to integrate project-based learning (PBL) into their pedagogy to enhance differentiation and make material more relevant for our students. Each of our academic departments also meet in PLC's during our time offered for District Provided Professional Development as well as during their allotted common planning and Department time as needed. In these PLCs, teachers of common content have discussions around four essential questions: What are students expected to learn? How will we know if they have learned it? What will they do if they have not learned it? What will we do if they already know it? We have seen our achievement gap shrink as our economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities continue to perform at higher levels.

State law requires that we also report additional information. Please Review our PA 25 Report to learn more about our schools.

### [PA 25/451](#)

As the Principal of Sparta Middle School, I am proud to see how our behaviors as a staff continue to cultivate a culture that is learning-centered. Our student body as a whole is one of the highest performing in our region based on our demographics. We outpace like schools and the state averages for achievement in most content areas that our students are evaluated on using the M-Step. Our students who are economically disadvantaged and our students with disabilities have outperformed similar schools and exceeded the state average in all areas as well by significant margins. Most importantly, our progress across subgroups that have historically underachieved continues to improve as we work to close our achievement gap. It is exciting and rejuvenating to know that the work we do has merit and that we are seeing positive results. At Sparta Middle School we will remain committed to improving learning for students and staff alike and providing the best education possible to each child.

Sincerely,

Brad Wood, Principal

Sparta Middle School