



## Clare Public Schools

April 25, 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 the Clare Public 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 Superintendent Jim Walter for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/woRH2U>, 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 SAT. Presents assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and science for grades 4, 7, 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

Review the table below listing our schools. 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 status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Clare High School	No Label	Math instruction, 1:1 technology
Clare Middle School	No Label	Math instruction, Positive Behavior Supports
Clare Primary School	No Label	Mat instruction, Positive Behavior Supports
Clare Pioneer High School	No Label	Online course offerings, alternative calendar

Once again, Clare Public Schools and our students should be recognized for their success in and out of the classroom. In the first Michigan Education Finance Study, Clare was recognized as a successful model district based on the following performance standards: **Above Average** (set by the state, based on the percentage of district students scoring proficient or above the state average in all tested subjects); **Growth** (the change in the percentage of district students scoring proficient or above between 2009 and 2014 was above the state average in all tested subjects); and **Notably Successful** (met *Above Average* performance standard and one additional standard, in our case *Growth*).

The district has recently invested heavily in math curriculum updates, and we are committed to improving math instruction. In addition, we are prepared for the changes to school code regarding the Third Grade Reading initiative. A rich and rigorous core curriculum, along with exceptional extra-curricular offerings in athletics and the arts combine to make Clare a district providing a well-rounded educational experience. Clare Public Schools is committed to literate citizens who are exceptional problem-solvers with an unmatched work ethic.

Clare Public Schools has also been recognized for its commitment to the Arts, receiving national recognition in 2016. The National Association of Music Merchants Foundations (NAMM), with assistance from researchers at The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas, designated our school system as among the “Best Communities for Music Education” in the country, along with 16 other districts. The award recognizes the outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students and

community leaders who work together to ensure access to music learning for all students as part of the school curriculum.

In sum, you will find Clare Public Schools to have a proud tradition of excellence, yet consistently working to improve our performance...this makes Clare a great place to live and learn!

Sincerely,

Jim Walter, II  
Superintendent