

Byron Area Schools

312 West Maple Avenue
Byron, MI 48418

Byron Elementary School School Annual Education Report (AER) Letter

March 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for Byron Elementary 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 Tricia Murphy-Alderman for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site (www.byron.k12.mi.us) or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

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 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 school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given.

Byron Elementary School has received no labels.

Byron Elementary School, like many other schools, faces particular challenges that can impact overall student academic performance. Challenges with maintaining adequate funding from the State of Michigan have impacted our school in several ways, including staffing and the amount and types of programming that we use to support our students. Over the past several years, our school district has experienced a significant drop in enrollment. The community of Byron, along with the rest of the state, has suffered through an economic downfall over the past decade.

In spite of these challenges, the staff at Byron Elementary School is committed to providing an outstanding educational experience for our students. The staff is continuing to implement a standards-based curriculum model that will be supported and communicated through our standards-based report card. Our school goals are student achievement, increasing instructional consistency, and increasing the overall academic challenges for our students. Our fourth, fifth, and sixth grade teachers are in their fourth year of teaching according to an academic specialty, each teacher specializing in one particular content area, such as mathematics or English/Language Arts. This enables each teacher to provide their students with more expertise in each of the content areas.

Our Title I program includes two (2) teachers and two (2) interventionists who work with students who have a particular area of deficiency among the core content areas.

Increasing our students' access to technology is a continuing goal for our school. We currently have a one-to-one student to iPad ration in our second grade. Our fifth and sixth grade students use Google Chromebooks almost every day, and we are planning to use funds raised through a recent school fundraiser for purchases of additional Chromebooks.

With the implementation of these curricular programs, the staff at Byron Elementary School will continue to work to accelerate student academic achievement and close gaps in learning.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Byron Elementary School services all students in grades K-6 who live within the boundaries of the Byron Area School District. The school also accepts Schools of Choice students from other districts following 501c rules.

2. STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Byron Elementary School Improvement Team has written a school improvement plan focused on raising student achievement in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. The team continues to analyze student achievement data in each of these content areas and develop a strategic plan for accomplishing these goals. The plan is reviewed by the team throughout the school year to monitor progress of implementation.

3. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

It is the philosophy of the Byron Area Schools and the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District to serve each person with special needs in the least restrictive environment. A continuum of education placement options is offered from age 0-26, which provides for mild to severe handicapping conditions, supportive services, and vocational training programs designed to meet the needs of special needs persons. The placement options are provided through cooperative planning by the Byron Area Schools, Shiawassee Regional Education Service District, and the Michigan Department of Education, since no district could support a full continuum itself. The Shiawassee Regional Education Service District operates programs and services for the low incidence populations. Likewise preprimary impaired programs are center programs service clusters of districts. For the high incidence of EMI, EI, and LD, each individual district offers those options that best meet their needs. However, by agreement, each district can have placement access to categorical programs operated by another district, if appropriate. In this way, a full continuum is available in an efficient and cost effective manner regardless of district size. Byron does have students who attend programs within the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District.

4. CORE CURRICULUM

Curriculum units at Byron Elementary School are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE). Assessment of the core curriculum, as well as all other curricular areas, is an ongoing process.

5. LOCALLY ADMINISTERED ASSESSMENTS

Our school uses the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) screening assessment three times per academic year to monitor students' literacy progress. We also conduct regular assessments using NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association), an on-line assessment, testing students in kindergarten through 6th grade in the areas of math and reading. Students in grades 3rd through 6th also participate in the State M-STEP assessment.

6. PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

During our annual parent-teacher conferences, held in November, we had a parent participation rate of 80%, which equated to 294 of 368 parents.

We, at Byron Elementary School, are proud of the hard work and accomplishments of our staff and students. Our staff exhibits a strong dedication to our students each and every day, as we continue to offer a positive learning environment and high quality learning opportunities. We will continue to work hard to help all of our students achieve success and prepare them for not only next school year, but for their lives ahead.

Sincerely,

/s/

Jacob Haynes
Principal
Byron Elementary School

