

Byron Area Schools

312 West Maple Avenue
Byron, MI 48418

Byron Middle 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 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 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 Middle School has not been assigned a label by the State of Michigan.

Byron Middle School, like many other schools, faces certain challenges that impact student performance. Reduced levels of state funding have impacted the staffing, programming, and the levels of support that Byron Middle School can utilize to ensure student growth. In spite of these challenges, the staff at Byron Middle School is eager to provide Byron students with exceptional learning opportunities. For 2016-17 academic year, the middle school with collaboration for the Michigan Project Based Institute continues to design teaching and learning by incorporating project-based lessons and units throughout our instructional courses. Our goal is to make our students' learning more engaging, challenging, and connected with the work outside the classroom. Teachers have been utilizing technology to increase students' understanding and utilization of 21st century skills. We are piloting a 1-to-1 Chromebook initiative in our 7th and 8th grade English classrooms. We continue to focus on improving math and reading achievement through different curricular offerings. Math explorations and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) classes are included in the middle school schedule to provide students additional opportunities to experience math and science using hands-on labs and real-life applications. We also demonstrate the importance of service in the community through our 8th grade Service Learning Course. This course includes standards from core curriculum as students develop service projects to utilize the resource of the banks of the Shiawassee River.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Byron Middle School services all students in grades 7-8 who live in 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 School Improvement Team has written a school improvement plan focused on raising achievement in writing, math, reading, science, and social studies. The team analyzed student data in each of these content areas and developed a strategic plan for accomplishing these goals. The plan is reviewed by the team multiple times throughout the 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

Byron Middle School curriculum units are aligned with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) are integrated into the existing curriculum.

5. LOCALLY ADMINISTERED ASSESSMENTS

Seventh and 8th grade students participate in the State M-STEP assessment. Also, students in the 8th grade participate in PSAT8/9.

6. PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Our annual parent-teacher conferences, which were held in October, showed a parent participation rate of 52%.

Byron Middle School is made up of dedicated professionals and support staff who recognize the students as very special people who are here to learn and grow. We are also fortunate that our parents are very involved and support the staff and students in a variety of ways. We will continue to stay focused on academics while setting

high standards for character and behavior by following the Eagle Code. With the support of the school, family, and community members, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

/s/

Grant Hegenauer
Principal
Byron Middle School

