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District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 11, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for Van Buren Public School District 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 Diane Kullis, Director of Instruction, for help if you need assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.vanburenschools.net/> or you may review a copy at the Administration Building.

The report contains the following information:

Student Assessment Data – Elementary and middle school assessment results on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), high school assessment results on Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and assessment results for students with disabilities on Michigan’s Alternative Assessment Program (MI-Access or MEAP-Access)

- Presents achievement data for all five tested subjects (mathematics, reading, science, social studies and writing) compared to targets for all students as well as subgroups of students.
- Helps parents understand achievement progress within schools and compare these to district and State achievement.

Accountability Scorecard – Detail Data and Status

Information is provided for the district and each school related to achievement targets in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies answering questions like:

- Did the district (and schools) meet achievement targets for all students and subgroups of students?
- Did the district (and schools) meet achievement growth targets for all students and subgroups of students?

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. The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth 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
Belleville High School		Reading Apprenticeship, READ 180, Carnegie Math and 6+1 Writing Traits
McBride Middle School	Focus School	Reading Apprenticeship, READ 180, Carnegie Math and 6+1 Writing Traits
Owen Intermediate School		Everyday Math, Carnegie Math, 6+1 Writing Traits and Exemplar Texts
Edgemont Elementary		Everyday Math, Phonics First, READ 180, System 44, 6+1 Writing Traits and Exemplar Texts
Rawsonville Elementary		Everyday Math, Phonics First, READ 180, System 44, 6+1 Writing Traits and Exemplar Texts
Savage Elementary		Everyday Math, Phonics First, READ 180, System 44, 6+1 Writing Traits and Exemplar Texts
Tyler Elementary		Everyday Math, Phonics First, READ 180, System 44, 6+1 Writing Traits and Exemplar Texts
Haggerty		Pre-school opportunities for students 3 – 5 years old using Creative Curriculum

Our 11th grade student MME scores in Math, Science and Writing surpassed the state growth for this test cycle, with Writing increasing 0.6% while the state average increased only 0.2%, Science increased 0.3%, as compared to the state's average growth of 0.2%, and Math increased 4% as opposed to the state average of 0% percent increase. On the

ACT, scores increased in all four areas, Reading, English, Math and Science. The state had a decrease of 1.2% in Math, while our students increased 0.5% in Math. Overall, the 11th grade class increased in the number of students who were proficient in all four subject areas: Composite – 4.5%, English – 5.1%, Reading – 4.9%, Math - 3.5%, and Science – 4.3% increase.

This growth increase demonstrates that the emphasis in the District on curriculum, literacy and learning is what is best for our students. Van Buren Public Schools will continue to emphasize high levels of learning for all students, as we continue to work together to raise student test scores."

The district completed the second year of both the Everyday Math program grade K-6th grade and the Carnegie Math program, grades 6th [gifted], 7th, 8th, Algebra and Geometry. Title 1 funds were used to hire ELA and Math interventionists to support student achievement and 31a funds were used to fund a smaller class size initiative at Rawsonville and math and ELA interventionists at non-Title 1 buildings. Reading Apprenticeship and Lit Circles were implemented in grades 9th – 12th to support student ELA learning. Increasing student writing was a K-12th grade initiative. In grades K- 6th, an hour a day was devoted to writing, while 7th-8th grade students were required to write a minimum of four 3-page typed papers and the 9th-12th grade students were required to write a minimum of eight 3-page typed papers a year. NWEA assessments were given three times a year in grades K-8th grade to use as a progress monitoring tool for teachers to assess student learning. The EXPLORE was given in both 8th and 9th grade, while the PLAN was given in 10th grade. These are assessments created by the ACT Corporation to prepare students for taking the ACT in 11th grade and to provide teachers with progress monitoring information to develop classroom instruction. The K-8th grade buildings initiated Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) programs to reduce time away from classroom instruction, by reducing behavioral interruptions.

For the 2014-2015 school year in addition to a continuation of 2013-2014 initiatives, the district will be implementing Reading Apprenticeship in 5th and 6th grade, Phonics First in K-2nd grade, Handwriting Without Tears in Preschool – 6th grade, and Carnegie Algebra II in the high school. Haggerty will be home to the Van Buren area Head Start Program through a lease of space at the Haggerty Elementary Early Childhood Building.

Parents are a welcome addition to Van Buren Public Schools. Parents are encouraged to participate in each K-8th grade buildings Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Several buildings have initiated a Watch Dog program, which involves Dads and other male figures, such as Grandfathers, Uncles, or cousins, to volunteer in the schools during the school day. Parent involvement is needed on each building's School Improvement Team and the District School Improvement Team. Parents are encouraged to participate in booster clubs for the 7th – 12th grade sports teams.

Sincerely,

Michael Van Tassel
Superintendent