



COLE ACADEMY

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School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

March 13, 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 Cole Academy. 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 our office for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following the link provided below, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. The Combined Report can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://goo.gl/BpnH76>

Last year, Cole Academy was only 1 of 4 lime green schools in Ingham County. Cole Academy scored a 24/28, which is the highest in the county, to achieve this designation. Our Response to Intervention (RtI) model, effectively closes the achievement gap of At-Risk students and increases the academic achievement of all students. While we are pleased with this achievement, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

[Priority, Reward, and Focus School Rankings](#)

These rankings tell us how a school is doing relative to other schools throughout the state on student achievement, improvement in student achievement, and student achievement gaps. Identifying schools with high achievement gaps is a critical step toward Michigan achieving its overriding goal of closing the achievement gap within schools and reducing the achievement gap statewide. Additionally, identifying schools with low achievement and/or high achievement

gaps allows schools to target their resources to areas that need the most improvement. Cole Academy has not been given one of these labels. The statewide percentile rank provides a number on the scale of 0-99, with 99 being the highest relative performance statewide on tested subjects for student achievement and student improvement. Cole Academy's statewide percentile rank is 30th. The achievement gap percentile rank provides a number on the scale of 0-99, with 99 being the largest relative achievement gap between the top 30% performing students and bottom 30% performing students statewide. Cole Academy's achievement gap percentile rank is 58th.

Key Challenges

The Combined Report was used to determine 2 key challenges for Cole Academy. The content area tests in science and social studies, in grades four and five respectively, have not increased as we had hoped they would. Our percentage of students proficient in science rose from 12.4% in 2014-15 to only 14.7% in 2015-16. Our percentage of students proficient in social studies declined from 22.2% in 2014-15 to 18.9% in 2015-16. These challenges are being met head on with a newly hired science consultant working with our teachers in implementing and designing learning in the new Michigan Science Standards through the use of hands-on learning. In the area of social studies, Cole Academy is working with a personal curriculum developer to increase our knowledge of content and inquiry based design as the State moves from the Grade Level Content Expectations to new standards.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Students are assigned to the Academy through an application process. The application period shall be a minimum of two weeks in duration; however the Academy accepts application all year. If openings exist, students shall be enrolled. If openings do not exist, applicants shall be placed on the official waiting list. The position on the waiting list is determined by a random selection drawing. The waiting list will cease to exist at the beginning of the next application period.
2. Cole Academy is currently in its sixth year of our School Improvement Plan with the following goals:
 - a. Goal #1 (Science): Students will increase collective scores by 10% each year on the M-STEP state assessment.
 - b. Goal #2 (Math): Students will increase collective scores by 8% each year on the M-STEP state assessment.
 - c. Goal #3 (English Language Arts): Students will increase class scores by 8% each year on the M-STEP state assessment.

These goals are aligned to the Curriculum and also support our Vision, Mission and Beliefs:

Vision Statement

Cole Academy will be a quality choice in education, a place where collaboration, uniqueness, and diversity are celebrated. Students are given the opportunity to enhance their growth through utilizing individual learning styles. Staff members will become nurturing facilitators empowered with the knowledge and resources, which promote quality growth. We strive to foster respect, personal responsibility, and confidence. Authentic experiences will allow each child to succeed.

Mission Statement

Cole Academy provides a challenging learning environment with high expectations for each child. Students receive developmentally-appropriate instruction that allows for individual differences and learning styles in a safe, orderly, caring and supportive environment. Cole Academy graduates will be equipped with the necessary skills to excel in middle school, high school and college.

Beliefs Statement and Expectations of All Students

Students will:

- Be taught at the level at which they are ready to learn
- Move through academics at a challenging pace
- Master one level of learning before moving onto the next
- Receive a solid foundation in reading, phonics, and mathematics
- Receive regular instruction in computer skills
- Participate in cooperative groups for reading, math and writing
- Be encouraged to reach for and achieve their fullest potential

3. Cole Academy is Lansing's longest-standing charter school in the state of Michigan and received a charter through Central Michigan University in 1995. The Academy originated as an Early Childhood Center and over the years, gradually became a K-6 Public School. Maximum enrollment at the school is 210 students. Enrollment for 2015-16 was recorded at 205 students. The student population is 59% free and reduced lunch students, 63% minority population, 55% male students and 45% female students. Challenges to the school are similar to most urban communities. Poor students come to school with less vocabulary and reading acumen than their more affluent counterparts. Despite this, Cole Academy far exceeds Lansing School in all academic areas. Recently,

new kindergarten students are coming to school with more formal educational opportunities like GSRP and Head Start.

4. Cole Academy provides opportunity for parents to review curriculum and instructional materials and to visit the Academy to observe the instructional process. Our curriculum can be digitally accessed by visiting <http://www.centerforcharters.org> or a copy can be requested in the main office. Curriculum implementation is overseen by Mr. Shaughnessy and Mrs. Johnson.
5. The Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP test, is given three times a year in most grades, and it measures student growth in the areas of math and reading.

Year	Student Reading Scores at or above target (3+ Years)	Student Math Scores at or above target (3+ Years)
2014-2015	52%	47%
2015-2016	49%	47%

6. Number and percent of students represented by parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Year	Number	% Participation
2014-2015	187	92%
2015-2016	199	96%

Parents, guardians and community members are also given a variety of other opportunities to participate at Cole Academy.

We are pleased to have this opportunity to serve your students at Cole Academy and look forward to continued growth and educational success.

Sincerely,

Stacey Johnson
Assistant Principal