



Linden Middle School  
"Where Eagles Grow"  
15425 Lobdell Road – Linden MI 48451  
Julie Brown, Principal

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## School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

March 10, 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 the Linden 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 Julie Brown for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/DiiHi6>, 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.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

According to the AER Combined Report, our M-STEP scores are above the state and county averages. Our sub-group numbers are less than 10%, making use of data for those groups limited. The two areas we struggle most are with Students with Disabilities and those students who are from economically disadvantaged households. To better meet the needs of these students, staff is investing time and energy to align curriculum with instruction and develop common assessments that also align to standards. Meeting in Professional Learning Communities, we will desegregate data and find specific areas of academic weakness to focus instruction. We will share best instructional practices among staff and implement those strategies that best meet the needs of our learners. In addition, we use Title I and 31a funding to provide supplemental academic instruction for those students who struggle in reading, writing and mathematics. Those identified students received extra time in those instructional areas, focusing to close the achievement gaps.

State law requires that we also report additional information. All Linden Community School students attend a common middle school making assigning students unnecessary. We are currently in our fifth year of our School Improvement Plan focusing our goals on science, social studies, mathematics, reading and writing. A copy of our core curriculum may be found in the main office of the building. Upon request, a copy of the curriculum will be provided. There are not variances from the state's curriculum model. For the past two years, the annual student achievement data identifies LMS students as exceeding county and state proficiency averages in each content area, for each grade level, with the exception of eighth grade mathematics. Efforts to continue growing student achievement is an on-going commitment. LMS enjoys a strong partnership with parents as represented by the high number of parents attending annual parent/teacher conferences (60% of the student body, 417 students represented).

As a district, we continue to strive to make student achievement our top priority. As a school, we pride ourselves on fostering a climate and culture that is positive, progressive, and cutting edge. With our family and community support, we continue to see why Linden Middle School is a great place to work and learn.

Sincerely,

*Julie Brown*

Julie Brown  
Principal