

## **Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter Elementary 2018-2019**

January 1, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) provides key information on the 2018-2019 educational progress for the Pontiac Academy for Excellence 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 Pamela Williams for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/2We5fxL> or you may review a copy in the main elementary office at your student's school.

For the 2018-2019 school year, schools were identified using new definitions and labels, as required in Every Student, Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroups. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance 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 label is given.

Our school was not given one of these labels.

Pontiac Academy for Excellence strives to provide quality education with a focus on academic achievement, academic growth and meeting the needs of each student. The data from state testing, M-STEP, and the district assessments, NWEA, are reviewed after each testing cycle. The Academy is scoring below the state average in English language arts and mathematics. However, the Academy has a laser focus on the core content areas with intentional instruction in order to raise student scores.

The key challenges faced by the Academy last year were teacher retention, changes in leadership and enrollment challenges as students are transitional and addressing the academic needs of students performing below grade level in English language arts and mathematics.

The key initiatives being addressed by the Academy are directly correlated to the identified challenges. Our Human Resources Department is addressing the need to secure teachers that desire to work with our students. In order to address the reading and mathematics challenges, our school has provided professional development in the area of Reader's Workshop, differentiated instruction and mathematical instruction. Mathematics and reading instruction is enhanced through our intervention team. Students receive classroom instruction and additional small group instruction based on current test deficiencies.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

**Process for Assigning Pupils to the School:** Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School offers open enrollment for all students in grades K-5. Parents provide application information, previous report cards and any behavioral documents. All information is reviewed prior to enrollment. There is no screen out based on disability, race, religion, gender, test scores, etc. When enrollment exceeds school enrollment capacity, a lottery process will be utilized for any additional open seats. Parents are notified with a phone call when students are accepted for enrollment.

**The Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan:** Pontiac Academy for Excellence Elementary School Improvement Plan (SIP) is a living, working document, developed by the administration and staff members. The SIP is designed to provide long term direction to address instruction, assessment, school culture, and professional development. The SIP specifically addresses instructional needs in the core content areas of reading, writing and mathematics. A copy of the School Improvement Plan can be viewed on the school website [www.pontiacacademy.org](http://www.pontiacacademy.org).

**Identify how to access a copy of the core curriculum, a description of its implementation, an explanation of the variance from the state's model:** Pontiac Academy for Excellence core curriculum is based on the Michigan Academic Standards. The Academy works closely with our authorizer, Saginaw Valley State University, to ensure the curriculum is aligned and updated to optimize teaching and learning. The Academy curriculum development is overseen by our Curriculum Director. In order to facilitate curriculum delivery, teachers create weekly lesson plans, meet in weekly grade-level team meetings, conduct pre/post assessments and attend monthly data meetings.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher Conferences are held twice a year as scheduled on the school calendar. Parents and teachers also arrange conferences on an as-needed basis.

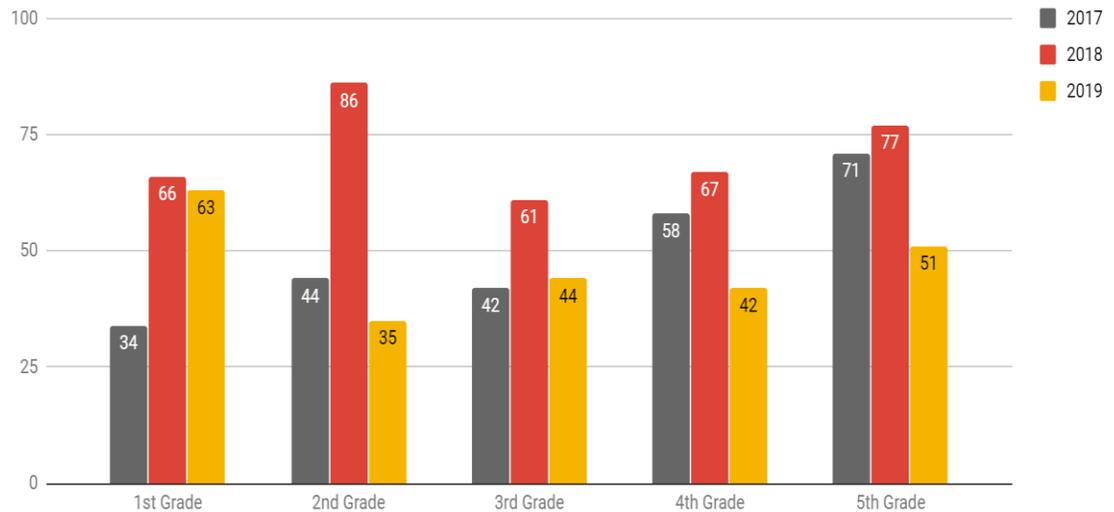
**Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance**

2017-2018 80%  
 2018-2019 44%

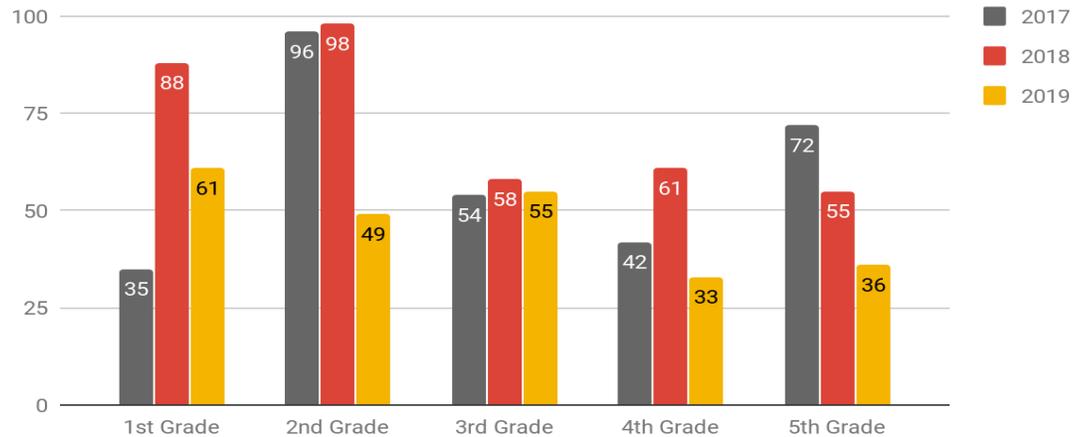
**Local Assessments:** Local assessments are District level assessments that are administered by a District Team or created and administered by teachers. At PAE teachers give pre and post-assessments to guide instructional decisions and to ensure that all students are working toward the content expectations of a particular unit.

Additionally, PAE administers the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) in the fall, winter and spring. NWEA is a research-based organization that supports students and educators by the creation of an assessment solution that precisely measures growth and proficiency—and provides insights to help tailor instruction.

Percentage of Students Who Met the Projected Growth in Reading on the NWEA Spring Assessment



### Percentage of Students Who Met the Projected Growth in Math on the NWEA Spring Assessment



As a team of educators, PAE's focus is on meeting the needs of every student in our building. The educational team supports students in all core areas as well as social-emotional development. Each day PAE students grow in their knowledge and it is exciting to watch them mature into academic scholars.

Sincerely,

Pamela Williams  
Elementary Principal/Director of Curriculum