



## School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter 2020-2021 School Year

Tuesday February 15, 2022

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2021-22 educational progress for Pontiac Academy for Excellence. 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 Karen Pond for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8dv2z9> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2021-22 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2018-19. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2017-18. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2016-17. 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 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
- leadership changes and staff turnover
- student enrollment challenges
- challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, including virtual learning

- addressing the academic needs of students performing below grade level in English language arts and mathematics

To address these challenges PAE is doing the following:

- Implementation of a MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) with a focus on Tier I instruction
- Positive Behavior Support initiatives (PBIS)
- Monthly climate culture meetings with Home School Liaisons
- Monthly grade level data team meetings with Principal
- Using student academic data to individualize instruction
- Formative assessments and quarterly benchmark assessments,
- Increase professional development (PD) support for all instructional staff
- Implementation of a structured PLC cycle that provides opportunities for teacher collaboration between grade levels and/or grade bands along with intervention and special education departments

State law requires that we also report the additional information below.

### **Process for assigning pupils to the school**

Pontiac Academy for Excellence offers open enrollment for all students in grades K-12. 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 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, in addition to climate/culture, PBIS and ESL. A copy of the School Improvement Plan can be viewed on the school website <https://www.pontiacacademy.org/>.

### **Access to Core Curriculum**

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 leadership team. 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. Parents can access the curriculum via Oakland Atlas Rubicon for 6-12 ELA, Math, Social Studies and for K-5 Math (<https://oaklandk12-public.rubiconatlas.org>).

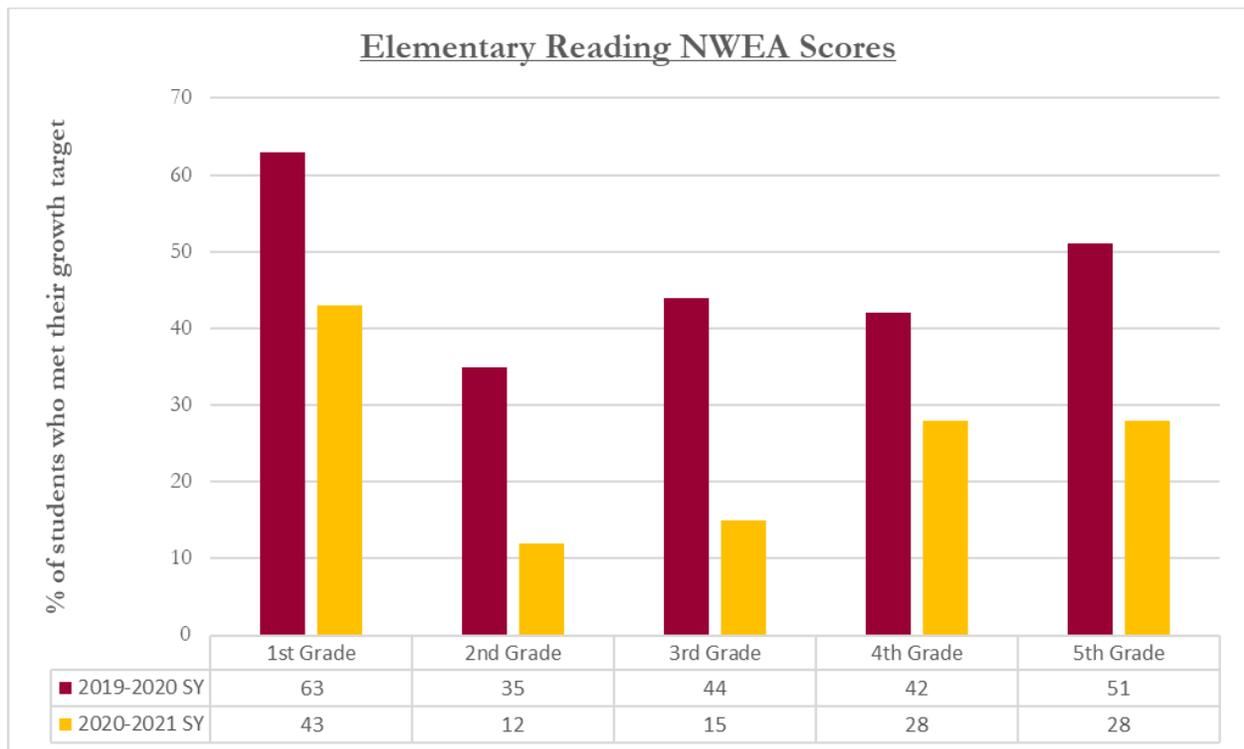
Parents can find science standards that are taught at Next Generation Science Standards, which can be accessed for K-12 Science at <https://www.nextgenscience.org/>.

### **Local Aggregate Student Achievement Results**

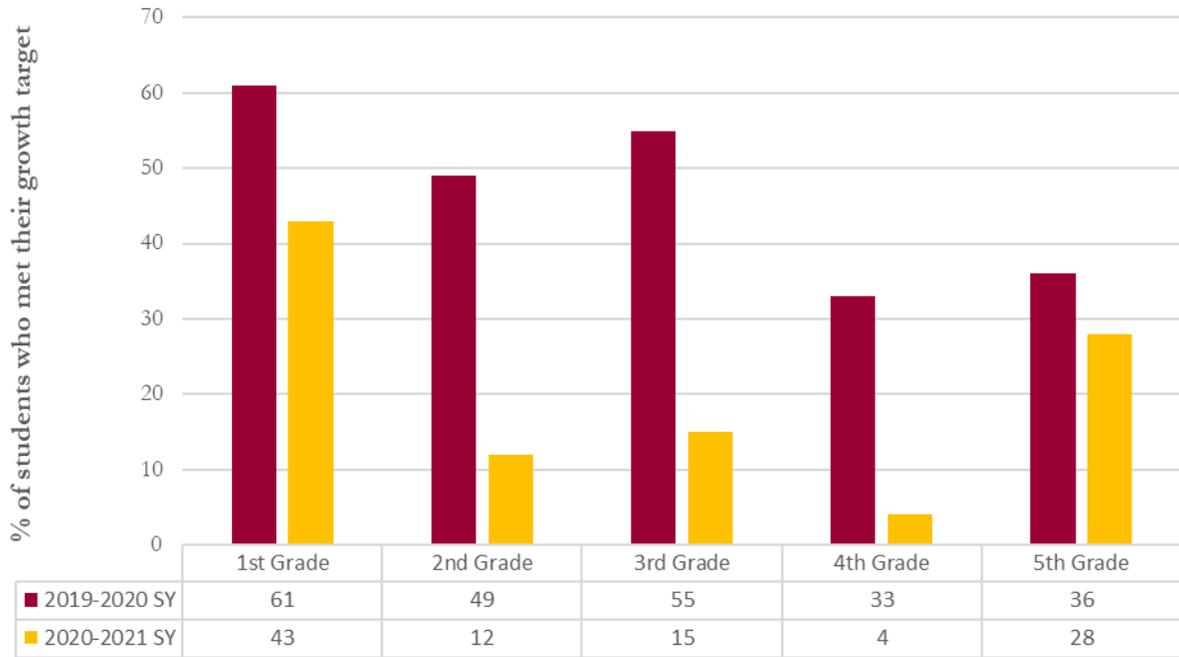
Local assessments are assessments that are administered at the district-level or created and administered by teachers. At PAE teachers give pre- and post-assessments to guide instructional decisions and to ensure that all students are working toward the content expectations of a particular unit.

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.

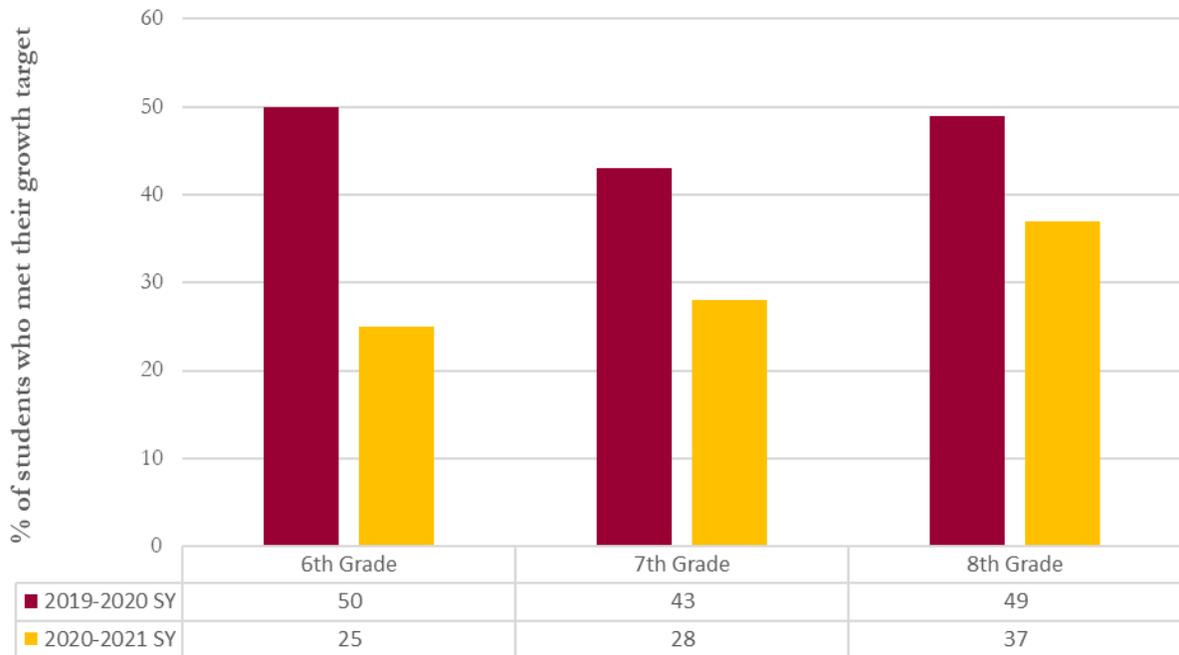
Below are the NWEA fall to winter reports from 2019-2020 and fall to spring from 2020-2021. Please note: **Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the spring 2020 NWEA assessment was not given.** As we continued through the pandemic, in most grades less than 75% of the students were assessed in the Spring of 2021



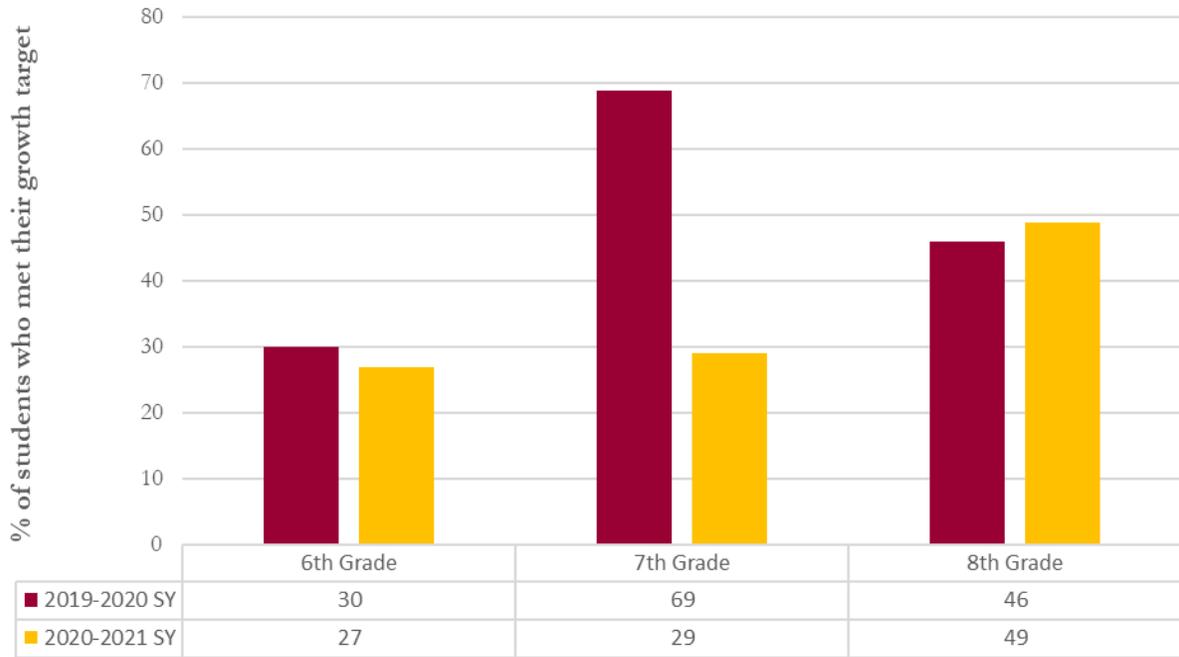
### Elementary Math NWEA Scores



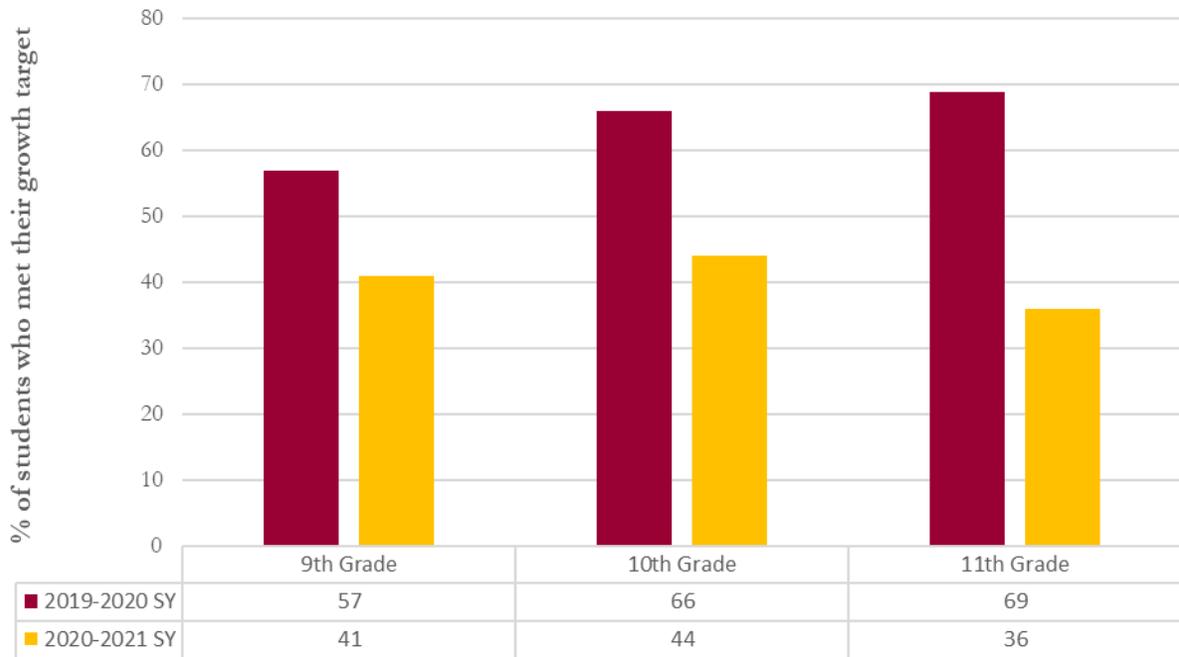
### Middle School Reading NWEA Scores

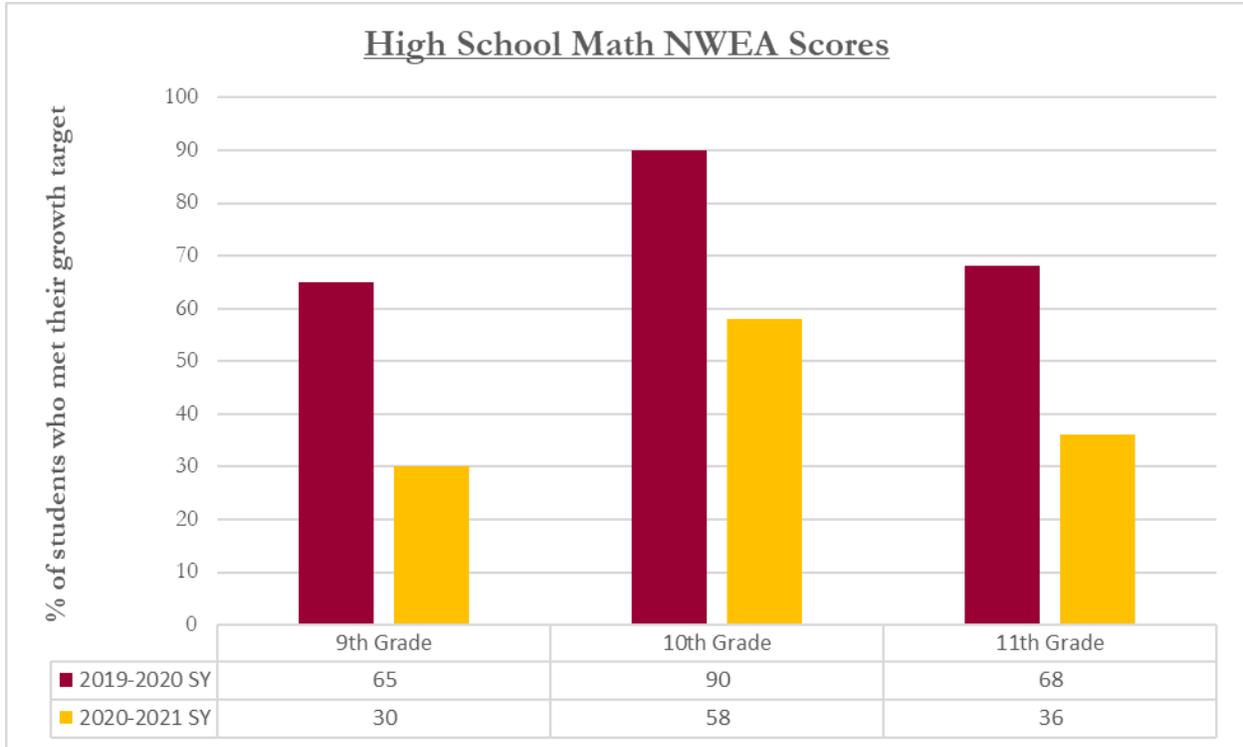


### Middle School Math NWEA Scores



### High School Reading NWEA Scores





### **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 Numbers

School Year	Elementary (K-5)	Secondary (6-12)
2019-2020*	80%	42%
2020-2021	78%	7%

\*Spring 2020 conferences were not held due to Covid-19, number reflects only fall 2019

**Postsecondary Enrollments (Dual Enrollment) Information (High School Only)**

For the years 19-20 and 20-21, Pontiac Academy for Excellence has not enrolled students in dual enrollment courses.

**College Equivalent Courses Offered (AP/IB) (High School Only)**

Students at Pontiac Academy for Excellence have not been offered AP classes.

However, three Honors courses have been offered and students are enrolled in these classes. The courses are as follows:

Course Name	Number of Students Enrolled in Course	Number of Students Enrolled in Course
	2019-2020 SY	2020-2021 SY
Honors Calculus	10	10
Honors English Literature	15	15
Honors Political Science	15	25

**Student Enrolled in College Equivalent Courses (AP/IB) (High School Only)**

None at this time.

**Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit (High School Only)**

None at this time.

Congratulations to the Pontiac Academy For Excellence instructional team and school community. Despite the many challenges posed by the Covid -19 pandemic the last two years, we have remained steadfast, committed and motivated to educate our students to the very best of our professional abilities. Our growth toward proficiency remains steady. In this past year, we have continued educated ourselves on new virtual platforms, transitioned our instructional materials to support virtual learning and spent numerous hours creating interesting lessons to keep our students engaged in the learning process. We continue to provide our students with embedded academic support during school hours with our MTSS academic intervention programs, common core/NWEA aligned technology programs, in addition to after school tutoring support. Our instructional team continues to work fiercely to fill achievement gaps that previously existed prior to Covid-19 compounded by the serious implications imposed on our Pontiac community due to pandemic. We stuck to our educational grit in order to provide a top notch, rigorous, tier one instructional program designed to simultaneously grow students academically and meet the criteria of proficiency. I want to congratulate this team because you persevered through all of the challenges, kept the needs of our students as the focal point and NEVER gave up! Because of this, I express my gratitude and appreciation to you, educational professionals, for your continued dedication to the craft and to our Pontiac Academy for Excellence students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph Payton  
Pontiac Academy for Excellence District Leader