

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 2015-2016 educational progress for the Pontiac Academy for Excellence 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 Ms. Brathwaite, Principal for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [www.pontiacacademy.org](http://www.pontiacacademy.org) or you may review a copy in the principal's 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 was identified as a Priority School. As of January 2017 we are excited to hear that Pontiac for Excellence Middle School has been released from Priority status. However, we will continue our efforts and plan for academic improvement.

Pontiac Academy for Excellence pride itself on student achievement and academic growth. After reviewing our M-Step data and Scantron data we know that we must continue to move students towards a "proficient" status. However, we know there are some challenges that we continue to face which are the following:

- Students performing below his/her grade level in reading or math
- Student apathy
- Teacher retention
- New State Assessment (M-Step)
- Declining Enrollment/new student entrance

In an effort to improve academic performance, a robust Multi-tiered System of Support (MTSS) has been implemented. The program provides academic supports to students, based on their individual needs, as determined by their academic achievement data, which identifies them as being placed into one of three possible tiers of support. Tier I supports reflect the general education provided for all students. Tier II intervention will provide small group targeted and focused instruction based on individual needs of students. Tier III supports are manifested in a pull-out intervention program for students who are performing well below grade level, and require remediation and mastery of several skills/standards in order to be successful with the grade level content. Renaissance Learning, a program the district adopted provides an interactive experience, including assessments and curriculum for the district's Tier II, Tier III, ESL, and special education students who are struggling in the content areas of Reading and Mathematics. This district-wide initiative provides a Multi-Tiered System of Support program resource, focused on entrance/exit criteria for Reading and Math, as well as individualized learning paths generated through these criteria, progress monitoring of student achievement, as well as parent progress reports for struggling students. MTSS staff work with small groups of struggling students to provide targeted and focused instruction on strengthening academic skills, leading to overall classroom success.

State law requires that we report additional information.

#### **Process for Assigning Pupils to the School**

Pontiac Academy for Excellence Middle School practices open enrollment for all grades 6-8. If enrollment is full, a lottery process may be used if and when openings are available. Parents will be notified if the students are enrolled. Student report cards are thoroughly reviewed prior to enrollment to ensure class availability.

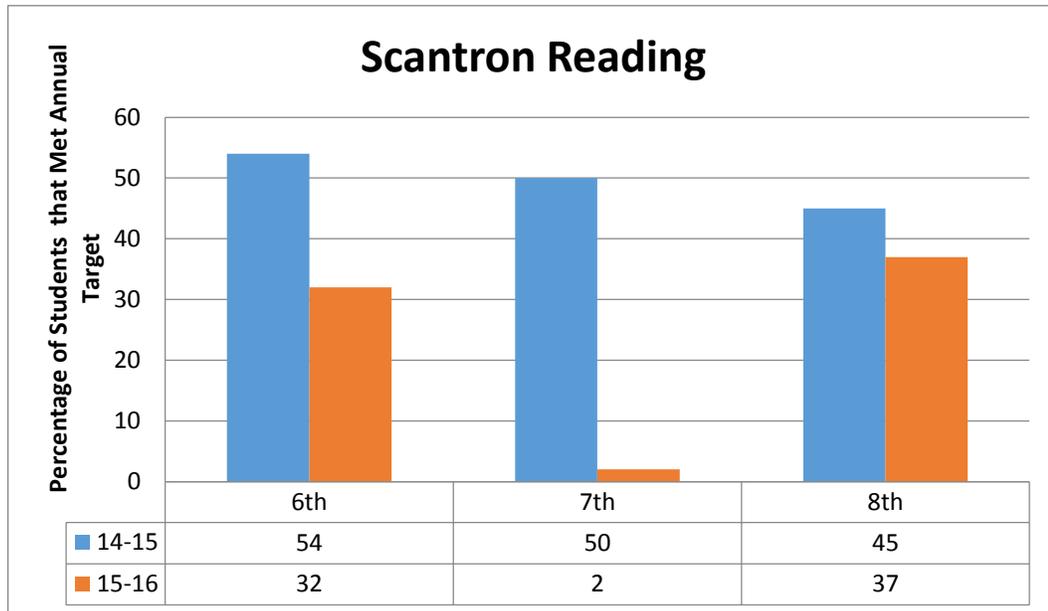
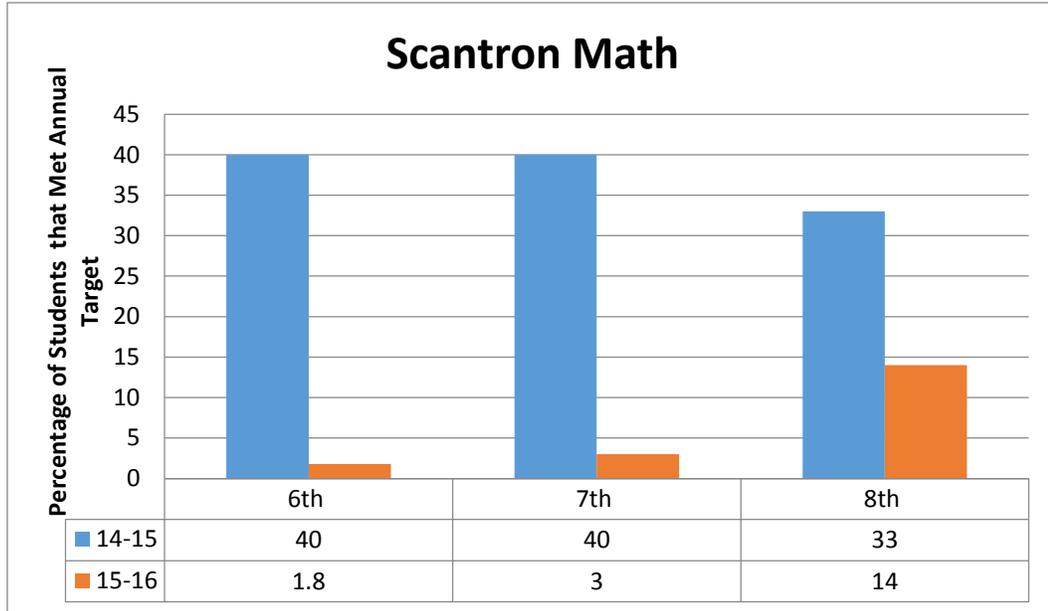
#### **The Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan**

Pontiac Academy for Excellence Middle School has developed and submitted to the state a plan of action. This is a long term plan to address aspects of instruction, learning, school culture and climate, as well as operational and systems issues for the school and district. A copy of the School's Redesign Plan can be found at [www.pontiacacademy.org](http://www.pontiacacademy.org).

#### **Description of Curriculum and Review Process**

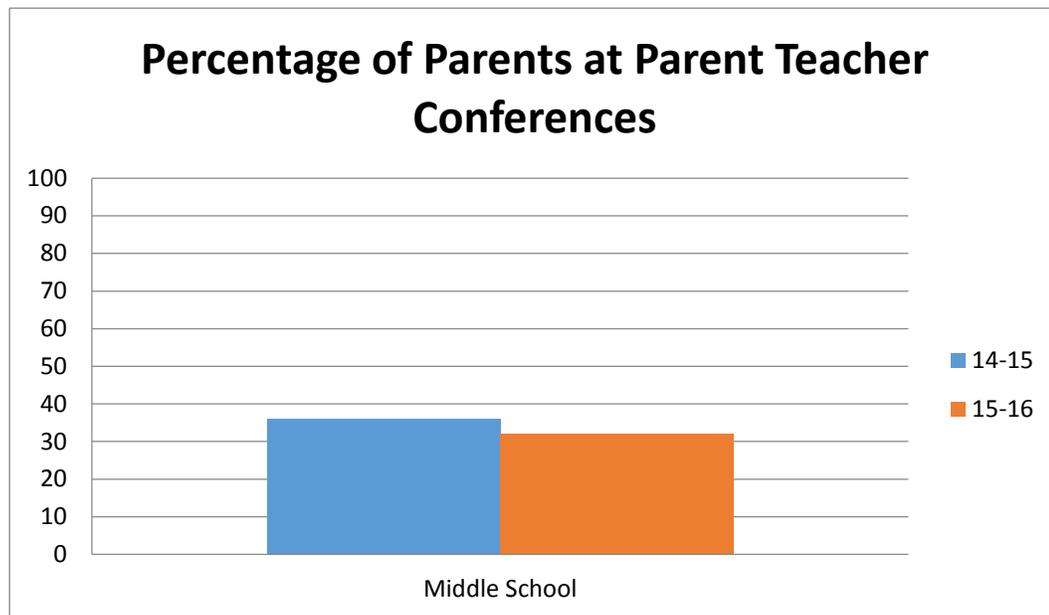
Pontiac Academy for Excellence's Core Curriculum is derived from the State of Michigan Department of Education Benchmarks and Standards and Elementary School Grade Level Content Expectations. PAE works closely with our authorizing agency, Saginaw Valley State University, to ensure the curriculum is aligned, revised and up-to-date in order to maximize opportunities for all students in attendance. All Saginaw Valley State University Charters are required to implement the most up to date core curriculum. The PAE Elementary staff is working on re-developing year-long plans and curriculum maps for each subject based on the Common Core State Standards. The curriculum is monitored through weekly lesson plans, weekly department meetings and frequent assessments.

**Local Assessments**



**Parental Involvement**

In order for children to be successful in school, parents are counted on to become active and positive participants in the learning process. Please make sure to take advantage of any and all teachable moments at home, applying skills learned to real-world activities in your everyday lives. Parents must be consistent and rigorous with their involvement by attending Parent Teacher Conferences and school events, programs, and field trips, etc.



Congratulations to the students, staff, parents, and administration Pontiac Academy for Excellence for the many accomplishments this past school year. As of January 2017 we are excited to hear that Pontiac for Excellence Middle School has been released from Priority status. However, we will continue our efforts and plan for academic improvement. We made many changes last year and we will continue to make improvements in order that our students will be able to compete in a global society.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Brathwaite  
Middle School Principal