



FARWELL AREA SCHOOLS

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REVISED 2019-20 TEMPLATE

District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

1/30/2020

Dear Farwell Area School Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-19 educational progress for the Farwell Area School District and our schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Steven L. Scoville at 989-588-9917 for assistance.

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

These reports contain the following information:

Student Assessment Data – Includes the following four assessments: M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), College Board PSAT, MI-Access (Alternate Assessment), and College Board SAT. This report section presents assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and MI-Access science for grades 4, 7, and 11, compared to state averages for all students as well as subgroups of students. The report helps users to understand achievement performance within grades and schools, and to make comparisons to district, state, and national achievement benchmarks.

Accountability – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability index values showing school performance on a 0-100 scale.

Teacher Qualification Data

- Identifies the number and percentage of inexperienced teachers, principals, and other school leaders
- Reports teachers who are teaching with emergency or provisional credentials
- Includes teachers who are not teaching in the subject or field for which they are certified

NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8

Civil Rights Data

- Provides information on school quality, climate and safety

For the 2018-19 school year, the Farwell Area Schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given.

We are pleased to report that **none** of the schools in the Farwell Area Schools or the district were given one of these labels.

The Farwell Area Schools (FAS) is a traditional public school with an enrollment of over 1060 students. We have an Elementary that is preschool-third grade, a middle school that serves students fourth –seventh grade, and a high school that serves student 8th -12th grade. The Farwell Area Schools also offers an alternative education program through our Timberland Alternative High School for students in grades 8-12 and a day care program. FAS is on trimesters and we have extensive course offering. FAS also offers Career Technical Education (CTE), work study, and a forestry program. We offer many extra-curricular activities including athletics, an award winning band program, Quiz Bowl, Science Olympiad, and robotics club. FAS offers an Early College program where students can earn a college degree.

The Farwell Area Schools are considered a rural school system serving a population of approximately 4590 in the central lower peninsula. FAS serves three small communities of Farwell, Lake, & Lake George. The district also serves 3 neighborhood associations. The school buildings reside in the Village of Farwell. The community offers many unique features including inland lakes, state recreational land, and a linear trail, The Pere Marquette Rail Trail. In 2019, our community passed a 20.1 million dollar bond to improve our educational facilities.

Our challenges include a community with a poverty rate of over 60%, an unequitable and unreliable state funding system, and staffing shortages in many

areas including teachers, para professionals, and bus drivers. The district has active School Improvement teams focused on improvement as measured by multiple sources of data.

The students, staff and community continue to be engaged with a focus on high expectations and continual improvement. FAS has achieved many successes during the 2018-2019 school year and we continue to focus on achieving even greater achievements in the future. Through increased engagement and a variety of challenging learning opportunities, the FAS families and community strive to prepare our students for the ever-changing world.

~ Rise Above ~



Steve Scoville
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