District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 13, 2023

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 Kalkaska Public Schools (KPS) and our schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact the Central Office at (231) 258–9109 for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website https://bit.ly/3L0yj5S, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. Each school will also be communicating their own AER to parents directly.

These reports contain the following information:

Student Assessment Data

- Includes the following three assessments: M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), MI-Access (Alternate Assessment), and College Board SAT

- 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.

School Accountability Data

- Includes information on schools' performance on various measures such as student proficiency and growth on state assessments, graduation, and attendance rates. Performance is measured on 0-100 index scales

- Reports schools identified under three federally required categories for further support: Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support

Educator 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

Review the table below listing our schools. For the 2022-23 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 2021-22. 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 2021-22. 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 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Birch Street Elementary School	N/A	
Rapid City Elementary School	N/A	
Cherry Street Intermediate School	N/A	
Kalkaska Middle School	ATS	Identify issues and develop a corrective action plan to address deficiencies
Kalkaska High School	N/A	

This is an incredible time to be a Blazer. We are in the middle of an innovative construction project that will create a state of the art Early Childhood Learning Center, a unified K–5 instructional model in the District, as well as other upgrades throughout the school district. Moreover, we are in the process of examining new English Language Arts curriculums, developing a new three–year Strategic Plan, and continuing to focus not only on student academic success, but student overall success. Thank you for choosing to be a Kalkaska Blazer!

Sincerely,

Rick Heitmeyer
Superintendent