



STURGIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



September 10, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2012-2013 educational progress for Congress 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 Teresa Belote, Principal of Congress School, for assistance.

Board of Education

Mr. Geoff Smith

Mr. Tom Robertson

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The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site https://www.mischooldata.org/NewAer/CombinedReport.aspx?Common_Locations=1-S,6585,1577,113&Common_SchoolYear=0&Common_LocationIncludeComparison=False&Portal_InquiryDisplayType=None#TeacherQuality or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of it's student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.

Administration

Dr. Thomas M. Langdon
Superintendent

Mrs. Julie Evans
Assistant Superintendent

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Director of Finance

Mrs. Janene Kosman
Technology Director

Mrs. Alejandra Garrett
ESL/Grant Coordinator

Mr. Brian Tallmadge
Data Coordinator

Mrs. Karen Stimson
Executive Assistant

Our school has been identified as a Focus school. Although our achievement data continues to be above the state average in reading and math, this reflects a significant gap between our top and bottom performing students, based on the third grade MEAP scores over the last two years. In an effort to reduce the achievement gap, we provide summer programming with targeted intervention for students. In addition, staff is being trained on specific strategies related to critical thinking, problem solving and language acquisition in an effort to meet the needs of all students.

State law requires that we also report additional information, listed below:

Process for Assigning Pupils to the School:

When students enter the district, the location of the home or daycare provider is considered for placement. Whenever possible, students are placed in their neighborhood schools. Other factors that impact placement decisions include services offered at the school, such as special education, the need for language support, and average class sizes at the time. School status and requests are also taken into consideration.

"Proud Of The Past, Prepared For The Future"

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School Improvement Plan Status:

Each spring, data is collected and reviewed. The data is analyzed over time and decisions regarding goals and strategies are selected, based on best practice research. Annually, we update our school improvement plan to clarify how we are progressing toward our goal and adjustments are made to reflect needed changes. A copy of the current School Improvement Plan will be available for review from the building office by September 1st, 2013.

How to Access the Common Curriculum:

The state of Michigan, along with a majority of states, recently adopted the Common Core standards. The Common Core standards establish clean and consistent goals for learning that will prepare our students for success in college and work. They are closely aligned to the Grade Level Content Expectations that we had prior to the adoption of the Common Core. The district is currently in the process of updating Sturgis Public Schools curriculum maps to align with the Common Core standards. The essential skills parent friendly documents will be distributed at open house. The new Common Core standards and their alignment documents can be accessed at:

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

RESULTS FOR LOCAL COMPETENCIES AND NATIONALLY NORMED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT TESTS:

Congress School’s kindergarten through 2nd grade students are assessed three times annually in the areas of Reading and Mathematics using the Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) MAP assessment, a nationally normed standardized achievement test. A comparison of Spring 2011 to Spring 2012 average test scores for each grade is illustrated below.

Grade	2011-12 Reading	2011-12 Math	2012-13 Reading	2012-13 Math
Kindergarten	NA	NA	161	158
First Grade	NA	NA	181	179
Second Grade	190	194	189	189

Parent/Teacher Conference Participation:

The expectation of this district is for all staff to participate collaboratively with parents to ensure that students are learning. Each year, we require and achieve 100% participation. During the parent/teacher conference window, teachers communicate with families, either during a face-to-face conference, phone conference, or home visit. If, after repeated attempts, the teacher is unable to make a personal contact with the family, written communication is utilized.

In closing, we would like to recognize the efforts of our students, staff, families, and community. Through our combined efforts, we will continue to work towards success for all students.

Sincerely,

Teresa Belote