

KALEVA NORMAN DICKSON SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Small School – Big Family

Marlen Cordes, Superintendent
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District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

December 12, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for the Kaleva Norman Dickson School District. 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 K-12 Principal, Jake Veith, for help if you need assistance.

The Kaleva Norman Dickson School District (KND) is located in northwest Michigan, in the heart of the Manistee National Forest, and only 20 minutes from the beaches of Manistee. KND is in the Village of Brethren, just down the road from world class fishing on the Manistee River, near miles of hiking and snowmobile trails. KND is host to approximately 510 K-12 students, and services the communities of Brethren, Wellston, Kaleva, and Irons, along with other small communities. Geographically speaking, KND is one of the largest districts in the Lower Peninsula, covering over 350 square miles. We are located less than one hour south of Traverse City, and 40 minutes west of Cadillac.

While KND is a small, rural district, there are still many opportunities for students to complete a number of unique classes and extracurricular opportunities. Students have the opportunity to complete many different art and PE classes, and also be a part of our band. In addition, we have many different career and technical education classes available. Some of these include welding, digital media, computer animation, and construction trades. This are many other courses available. KND students also partner with local colleges to complete Dual Enrollment courses, where students will receive both high school and college credit. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, many varsity sports, robotics, quiz bowl, math counts club, and music club.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/kBLU2V>, 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. The report presents assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and 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 Scorecard – Detail Data and Status

The accountability portion of the AER includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability scorecard status.

Teacher Qualification Data

- Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels
- Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes

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

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 status label is given. No schools within the Kaleva Norman School District have been give any of these labels.

Thank you to the teachers, staff, parents, and most importantly, the students for making the Kaleva Norman School District a great place to learn and explore. When we all work together, our students can be very successful and we are truly a “Small School-Big Family.”

Sincerely,

Marlen Cordes, Superintendent
KND Schools

