



# LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

101 PRIMARY WAY • LAWTON, MICHIGAN 49065

## School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 1, 2022

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 Lawton 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 Tamara Webster, Curriculum Director, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website **[https://www.lawtoncs.org/Our\\_District/Annual\\_Reports.html](https://www.lawtoncs.org/Our_District/Annual_Reports.html)**, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2021-22 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 2018-19. 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 2017-18. 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 2016-17. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given. Our school has not been given one of these labels.

In looking at our past data in the Annual Education Reports, Lawton Middle School is concerned with the low number of proficient math students in the 7th Grade Class from the 2020-2021 school year. According to the report 17.6% of the students were deemed proficient with 8.8% of them being identified as advanced. Even though these scores occurred prior to and during the pandemic year for our students, we plan to implement programs to address the gaps of our students' deficiencies. This year we have put into practice the IXL Program that works individually with all of our students to meet them at their needs. This program allows the teachers to track the progress of all of our students and assesses their areas of need. The program works in conjunction with our NWEA Tests to identify skills that students may be lacking and design lessons that are unique for each student. All students in Lawton Middle School will be utilizing this program for the next three years.

State law requires that we also report additional information. Lawton Community Schools participates in both 105 and 105c School of Choice. Students in Van Buren County or districts in

counties that border Van Buren County may apply to attend during announced school of choice windows. Lawton resident students in grades six through eight are placed in Lawton Middle School unless they have an IEP indicating needs unable to be served in our district or if they qualify for online virtual education. Virtual students are served through the LAAC, and students with specialized needs are served by the Van Buren Intermediate School District. This is rare.

Lawton Community Schools is pursuing a District Improvement Plan through MICIP. Each building, including Lawton Middle School is pursuing research based strategies to enhance literacy, wellness, and STEM skills.

Lawton Community Schools follows the Michigan Department of Education's Core Curricula including Common Core Mathematics and English Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards, and Michigan Standards for Social Studies, Physical Education, Health, and the Arts. As part of our multi-tiered system of supports, we focus on essential standards chosen from this curricula. A copy of our current essential standards is available from your child's teacher.

Lawton Community Schools is also monitoring our Return to Learn Plan via use of standardized, research based assessments. The results of these assessments are regularly reported to the Board of Education.

Parent-teacher conferences are also an essential part of success for our learners. We have a system of communication in place that allows 100% of parents to engage in two-way communication throughout the term as well as to schedule a conference three times each year depending on student needs.

The last couple of years have been difficult for many of our students, staff, and community members of Lawton Middle School. Even though there may have been some learning loss due to the pandemic, Lawton Middle School will not be using that as an excuse for our students to not reach their full potential. We are committed to using all of our resources at our disposal to support our students in their academic and social progress. Teachers are putting in their best efforts to identify Essential Standards that our students need to be successful in the future and implement them during the school day. Lawton Middle School teachers will be offering tutoring sessions after school for those students who are not progressing with the Essential Standards. We will continue to support all of our students in such a manner that we will view the pandemic years as a time of positive ingenuity and not the lack of learning. Thank you for all your support this past year.

Sincerely,

David Williams  
Lawton Middle School Principal