



## District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-20 educational progress for the Kalkaska Public Schools 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 Superintendent Terry Starr for help if you need assistance.

Although there were some highlights experienced by Kalkaska Public Schools (KPS) during the 2019-20 school year, due to the overarching impact of COVID-19 it was also fraught with challenges. In terms of annual reporting the great challenge came in the form of a lack of available and viable student assessment data.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [www.kpschools.com](http://www.kpschools.com), 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. 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. Please see the data accompanying this report for 2019-20.

### **Teacher Qualification Data**

- Kalkaska Public Schools had one emergency certification teacher for the 2019-20 school year.
- All Kalkaska teachers taught within their certified field for the 2019-20 school year.

### NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)

- There are no NAEP results at this time to provide.

### Civil Rights Data

- This data provides information on school quality, climate and safety.

Please review the table below listing our schools. For the 2019-20 school year, 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 three or more underperforming student subgroups. 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.

\* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.

ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school

- As you will read, none of Kalkaska Public Schools received labels of concern.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Kalkaska High School	No Label	Focus on Research-based Instructional Best Practices
Kalkaska Middle School	No Label	Focus on Research-based Instructional Best Practices
Cherry Street Intermediate	No Label	Focus on Research-based Instructional Best Practices

Rapid City Elementary	No Label	Focus on Research-based Instructional Best Practices
Birch Street Elementary	No Label	Focus on Research-based Instructional Best Practices

Kalkaska Public Schools are proud of the educational opportunities children are being provided each day. There has never been a deeper desire and commitment to excellence in our teaching and learning. Our district's Strategic Plan provides a road map that will continue to drive all that we do. As well, our daily efforts will be monitored and measured by our district and building-wide school improvement processes. Each of our schools has programs and interventions in place to support and monitor student achievement and growth. We value and appreciate the continued and growing support of parents, staff, community and our students as we work diligently each day to, *"Blaze a Trail to Excellence!"*

Sincerely,

Terry J. Starr, Superintendent