

District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 15, 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 Tri County Area 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 Allen Cumings, Superintendent for help if you need assistance.

The DISTRICT AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.tricountyschools.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.

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 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 status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Tri County High School	No Label Given	N/A
Tri County Middle School	No Label Given	N/A
Sand Lake Elementary	No Label Given	N/A
MacNaughton Elementary	No Label Given	N/A

Tri County Area Schools are working hard to re-establish regular practices and routines as we move out of the Covid-19 pandemic. During the 2021-2022 school year were pleased to offer parents the choice of a traditional in-person education and secondary virtual school education. These options showed our willingness to work toward our vision to “lead the way in educational opportunities for the successful future of each student”. Tri County was also able to support and serve our students by providing free breakfast and lunch throughout the 2021-2022 school year. We were pleased that we were able to give these support and options during this time. We will keep our vision at the forefront as we move out of the pandemic, in order to expand academic programming for students at all learning levels, and work to increase social emotional support that students may need.

Tri County Area Schools is very excited for our upcoming building projects created with the passing of a 37-million-dollar bond in 2019. The main focus of the bond work is the new elementary school that will bring our schools to a central campus. Other improvements include a new cafetorium (an auditorium used as a cafeteria during the day), upgrades to classrooms and furniture, HVAC upgrades including classroom air conditioning, and athletic field and stadium upgrades. These initiatives will all begin in the Spring of 2021, and we are excited to break ground on the future of Tri County.

Tri County will continue many of its successful options for students by providing educational, enrichment and extracurricular options. In our K-8 programing, Tri County offers a strong core curriculum along with specials for Music, Art, Physical Education, and Computers/Media, and Woods for 6-8 grade. In grades 3-8 we offer STEM programming, which includes an outdoor garden, coding, robotics, and design thinking. Giving students opportunities is key for them to prepare for life after school and we believe in students exploring their educational interests. Tri County is also a part of the community eligibility provisions program which means all K-12th grade students eat breakfast and lunch for free.

Tri County High School offers students opportunities in both our local curriculum offerings (including AP), as well as a strong dual enrollment program where students may attend local colleges (including Ferris State and Grand Valley State University). The high school offers many options for enrichment offerings such as a media class, basic marketing, and sales (school store), food art (culinary) and a full woodshop that includes a CNC machine. Our students also have the option to attend Kent Career Technical Center and Newaygo County Career Tech Center for additional opportunities for job skills training.

Tri County Area Schools students have great opportunities in extracurricular activities with 16 varsity sports, many of which have sub-varsity and middle school programs. Our award-winning Tri County Band consistently earns top honors at festivals, and the Marching Band has been to the State Finals at Ford Field 3 of the last 4 years. A strong Odyssey of the Mind program, that has teams from elementary to high school, has won 3 State Titles and sent four teams to the World Competition in the past 4 years. We are so proud of the hard work our students put into academics, arts, and athletics.

It is an exciting time at Tri County Area Schools as we move forward with our building projects, curriculum, and extracurricular opportunities. It is great to lead and collaborate with a great school community that desires to educate, encourage, and empower each child. If you have any questions or want to learn how you can be a part of the great things happening in Tri County, please feel free to contact me at 616-636-5454.

Sincerely,
Allen Cumings