



**VERONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
825 CAPITAL AVE. N.E.
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017
(269) 965-9710**

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 1, 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 Verona Elementary 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 Sharon Hampton-Madyun for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/3roE2rN> , or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

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 a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. 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 label is given.

Our school was identified as an Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school. Our growth has been slow but recent assessment data shows that scores are improving.. We have begun a targeted academic process geared toward rapidly increasing the achievement of our lowest achieving students. Our current initiatives include:

- Additional RTI/small group instruction for our African-American males who are in the bottom 30%
- Literacy Specialist and Title 1 tutor provide additional support for identified students in Reading
- Focus on Phonics instruction incorporating high engagement/explicit instruction techniques

- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) meet twice per month at all grade levels to analyze student achievement data and to adjust/develop best teaching and intervention strategies based on student data outcome
- Data folders are kept for all students to track individual student growth and interventions
- 90-minute Literacy blocks and 75-minute Math blocks are protected and uninterrupted daily for all classrooms

The Verona - School Combined Report shows significant achievement challenges across all grades. Verona utilizes a Literacy Specialist and Title 1 tutor for Response to Intervention (RTI). The Literacy Specialist and Title 1 tutors push into classrooms each day to work with small groups of students to focus on strengthening literacy skills. The Literacy Specialist and Title 1 tutor work with Tier 2 and Tier 3 students. During RTI time, the regular classroom teachers conduct small group instruction cycles. This RTI configuration is expected to show as successful by way of increased M-STEP scores in the next testing period.

State law requires that we also report additional information for the two most recent years on the following:

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Students who attend Verona Elementary are assigned to our school by where they reside. Boundaries are set and can be reviewed by calling the school secretary at (269) 965-9710.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Verona’s plan was state approved. We continue to work to improve the education that our students receive. Regular meetings are held with staff members, parents and interested community stakeholders to discuss data, and upcoming changes. Our Instructional Leadership Team and our Professional Learning Communities are used to drive our School Improvement process.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

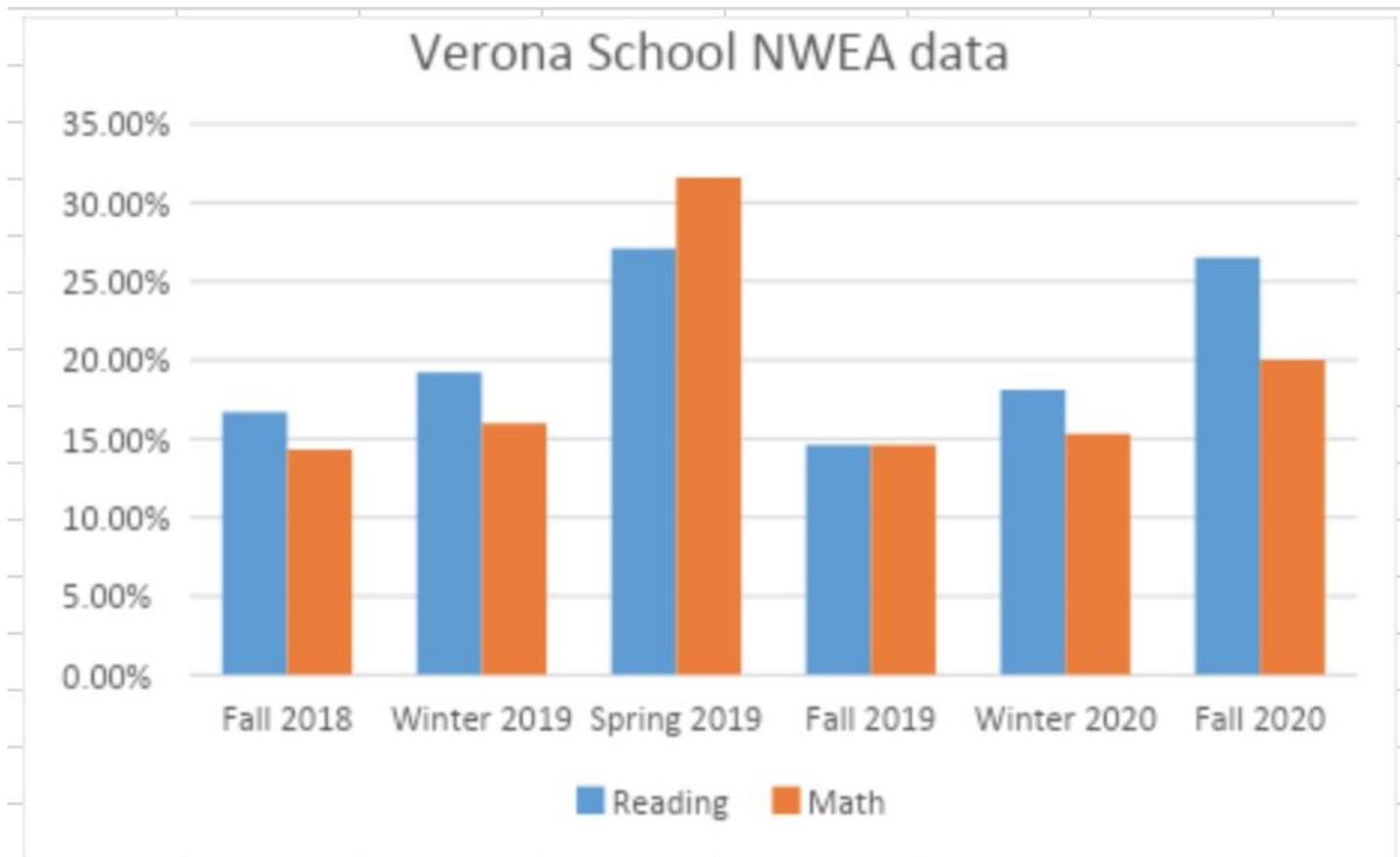
Verona serves students in grades 3-5 with 256 students enrolled. We focus on the four core curricular areas, (Math, Reading/Writing, Science and Social Studies) and have many extra-curricular areas taught as well. These would include Physical Education, Art and Music. We have two Special Education teachers for children who qualify for this service, as well as a School Psychologist, a Social Worker, a school nurse, an English Language Learner tutor, and a Speech teacher. Verona has two ELL tutors and a Speech Pathologist.

4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE’S MODEL

Verona’s core curriculum and curriculum guides can be accessed by requesting copies from the school’s office. Battle Creek Public Schools’ curriculum is aligned with Michigan’s Common Core Curriculum. Work continues to fully align the curriculum with the new national Common Core Standards. Curriculum maps and common classroom assessments are being developed to provide teachers with consistent expectations to monitor student achievement. The district continues to focus on the Four A’s of curriculum work:

Alignment with the Standards and Benchmarks/Grade Level Content Expectations; Articulation between grade levels and core areas/courses; Assessment measures that consistently gauge student achievement levels; and Accountability in teaching the written curriculum. Teachers are actively involved in the curriculum development process and provide valuable feedback as we continue to focus on high levels of academic achievement for all students.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS



6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Verona Elementary has Parent/Teacher conferences in the fall and in the spring. Conference attendance averages 45% in the fall and 60% in the spring. These percentages represent the number of students who had at least one parent attend conferences at Verona.

Verona school has identified roadblocks to achievement. Those roadblocks are in the process of being removed through the use of professional and experienced staff members. Laser-focused data analysis has shown specific areas of concern that help us provide students with purposeful

intervention. Barring any additional pandemic related restrictions or closures, it is assured that the students of Verona will show increased proficiency by the end of this school year.

Sincerely,

Sharon Hampton-Madyun, Ed.S.
Principal - Verona Elementary School

