



## **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

April 11, 2016

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2014 - 15 educational progress for the Lansing STEM Academy. 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 Principal Ellen Beal for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/zcEL3h> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

Lansing STEM Academy faces two major challenges that impact student enrollment and available resources. First, due to increased competition from district magnet and neighboring charter schools, our school has experienced a decline in enrollment every year since becoming a Pre – K – 8 building in 2011. This has resulted in a reduction in available funding from both general fund and at-risk sources. As a result, the administration and School Improvement Team has to spend available resources more efficiently and utilize staffing more effectively.

Second, our school is in a transition from a STEM focus to a performing arts academy. Presently, the bond issue in front of Lansing voters details a plan to combine Lansing STEM Academy and Pleasant View Performing Arts Academy into the RICH VPA (Visual and Performing arts) Academy in the fall of 2017. This has created some sense of uncertainty with the pressures of a major building renovation as well as the impact of combining both the staff and students of two schools on school climate and culture.

At the same time, Lansing STEM Academy appeals to families with students at several grade levels who want the convenience of having all of their children in one school and as a "legacy" magnet, still provides district wide busing to all students regardless of their home district. We have a full time nurse that serves both our general education and special education students with a strong emphasis on physical fitness and nutrition programming.

At STEM we have maximized our resources to provide ongoing support to boost academic achievement and ensure that our students are at grade level in both reading and math. We have expanded READ 180 support at the middle school level

to include 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Targeted elementary students receive daily literacy support from a specialized literacy assistant. Our students also may get additional academic assistance through lunch- time math and writing tutoring, Math 180 and a specialized math assistant for grades 5 – 8.

We recently opened the Positive Learning Center to provide a smaller learning environment for both SE and general education students in need of additional academic support. The center is staffed throughout the day with two teachers and the math assistant. This year we are also implementing MAISA Writing Units and continue to offer engineering classes for grades K-8.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. As Lansing STEM Academy does not have a designated attendance area, parents may complete an application at PACE or enroll students at the building site. Most students are accepted based on availability of space at each grade level.
2. Lansing STEM Academy is currently revising the School Improvement Plan for the final year of the five - year cycle.
3. Parents can access district pacing guides for Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies on the district website:  
<http://www.lansingschools.net/schools/academies/rich-stem/> for each grade level. Each pacing guides is aligned with common core state standards.
4. Student progress is measured in Math and Reading three times a year using the AIMSweb testing system. Students are tested in math concepts and computation and reading fluency and comprehension to determine if additional support is needed in grades K- 8. First and second grade students showed a significant increase in proficiency in math concepts and reading fluency while third grade student scores remained constant. Fifth grade showed the biggest jump in proficiency in math computation and reading fluency between the fall and winter assessments. This has remained consistent over the past two years. All students will be tested one more time in May to determine the students who have achieved benchmark or grade level for the school year.
5. We had 55% of parents/guardians attend our fall Parent/Teacher conferences.

Lansing STEM Academy is well positioned to meet the challenges ahead because of its committed veteran staff and the support of our families and their students. We have a rich, diverse school culture dedicated to mission of helping all of our students fulfill their academic potential. We welcome parents and guardians to visit our school to check out our programming and to see what we have to offer for their child.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Beal  
Lansing STEM Principal