

# Sonoma Elementary School

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for Sonoma Elementary. 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 Cyndi Mead for assistance.

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

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. 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.

According to the most recent state assessment data our biggest challenge is in the area of math. Our English Language Arts scores in both 3rd and 4th grade are significantly higher than the state, however we are lower than the state in math. Our school improvement team has made math a priority and we are working diligently to deepen our understandings and establish common understandings. We have begun teaching math through the workshop approach since this has been very successful for us in ELA. We are doing a building wide book study and have worked both in grade levels and as a whole building to understand the how to close gaps in children's understanding of math.

Students are assigned to Sonoma Elementary through two methods: 1) students live in the Sonoma area within the district, and 2) parents request Sonoma as their

school of choice both from within and from outside of the district. Class size numbers are considered before any student is granted school of choice status.

Our School Improvement Plan is reviewed each year and updated to meet the needs of the students in our school. Consideration is always given to providing teachers with additional professional development and families with opportunities for further engagement. Technology usage has also been incorporated into the plan. We have goals in the areas of reading, writing, and math.

Sonoma follows the Common Cores State Standards found on the Michigan Department of Education website. We work at teaching as much as possible through an inter-curricular approach in order to help students draw from their experiences and make deeper connections. Our report cards have been aligned to the Common Core which assures that our teaching practices are consistent with state-wide expectations.

Sonoma students take district assessments three times per year in English Language Arts and Math. We use the Fountas & Pinnel tool for Reading and Math Recovery Screener for Math. The table below shows the results of these assessments for the last two years.

	English Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
2015 - 2016	59%	80%	39%	75%
2014 - 2015	51%	75%	48%	66%

We are fortunate to have many supportive parents at Sonoma who attend Parent Teacher Conferences. The table below reflects conference attendance either through parents coming to the school or joining the teacher in a phone conversation.

	FALL	SPRING
2015 - 2016	99%	99%
2014 - 2015	98%	98%

We are very pleased to work with the entire Sonoma Elementary community and pride ourselves on developing positive relationships with our students and their families. It is only by the combined efforts of educators, parents, and community members working together that our students' understanding of the world will continue to flourish and grow. Thank you Sonoma parents and community members for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Cyndi Mead  
Principal