

# Polk Elementary School

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Dear Polk Elementary School 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 Polk 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 Mark Brenton at (313) 203-0500, or via email at [brentoma@dhsd7.net](mailto:brentoma@dhsd7.net), for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following [web site](#) or you may review a copy from the Polk Elementary School main office.

Polk Elementary has had difficulty improving student performance and student growth in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics. As we are committed to providing the best individualized instructions for all students, we are:

- Adjusting how we provide instruction in English Language Arts through ability-level grouping;
- Providing professional development to staff to assist in targeting those areas of concern as well as to provide additional instructional tools for improving student performance (i.e. building academic vocabulary);
- Actively involving students and families by offering numerous evening activities targeted at English Language Arts and Mathematics throughout the 2016-17 school year, and;
- Investigating other strategies for inclusion in the 2016-17 School Improvement Plan targeted at reducing the gap between the top 30% and bottom 30% at Polk Elementary School

Information used to rank schools is based on the development of the Top to Bottom list of schools and their performance.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. In 2013, Dearborn Heights School District #7 conducted a reconfiguration of the elementary program. Polk Elementary School now serves as the district's sole building for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, so all 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students attending Dearborn Heights School District #7 attend Polk Elementary School.

2. The Polk Elementary School Improvement Plan was revised during the 2016-17 school year. Our school improvement goals – improvement in Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies – were updated, as were our strategies for achieving those goals as determined by the *Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP)*, the *Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)*, and locally-produced classroom assessments. With the consolidation of Polk Elementary to a 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grade building, however, the Polk Elementary School Improvement Plan has been redrafted to reflect the needs of a lower elementary school rather than a K-5 building.
3. Polk Elementary is an elementary school serving 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades in all core subject areas. Further, all students receive special area instruction in Art, Computers, Media, Music and Physical Education.
4. The Michigan Department of Education provides all Michigan schools with a core curriculum for all core academic areas, including Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. Copies of this curriculum can be accessed via the Internet at <http://www.corestandards.org>. These core standards align closely with the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics, and provide the foundation for learning at the elementary level. This core curriculum has been customized to the needs of students in Dearborn Heights School District #7 by teachers of all grade levels working in concert with district administration. The material presented is identical to what is expected by both the state and federal governments, but is tailored to the specific student populations of District #7 elementary school students.
5. Presented below in table format are the Polk Elementary School aggregate student achievement results for both *MEAP/M-STEP* and *NWEA Measures of Academic Progress* for the past two school years. The values listed on the table indicate the percentage of students identified as Proficient (or better) in each area.

<b>Grade 3 M-STEP Math 2014-15</b>	<b>Grade 3 M-STEP ELA 2014-15</b>	<b>Grade 3 M-STEP Math 2015-16</b>	<b>Grade 3 M-STEP ELA 2015-16</b>
25.7%	13.3%	27.1%	21.0%
<b>Grade 3 NWEA Math 2014-15</b>	<b>Grade 3 NWEA Reading</b>	<b>Grade 3 NWEA Math 2015-16</b>	<b>Grade 3 NWEA Reading 2015-16</b>
26.0%	30.4%	30.6%	38.3%

6. Polk Elementary School is fortunate to regularly have well over 90% of all families represented at fall Parent-Teacher Conferences, and roughly the same for those families invited to attend spring conferences as well.

We at Polk Elementary School are exceptionally pleased with our continued progress. We continue to work as a staff and as a school community to do what is best for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students of Polk Elementary School so that they may go on to achieve further success in school as well as in later life.

Sincerely,



Mark J. Brenton  
Principal  
Polk Elementary School