



# LAWTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

101 PRIMARY WAY • LAWTON, MICHIGAN 49065

## School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 1, 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 Lawton Accelerated Academic Center (LAAC). 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 Tamara Webster, Curriculum Director, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [https://www.lawtoncs.org/Our\\_District/Annual\\_Reports.html](https://www.lawtoncs.org/Our_District/Annual_Reports.html), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

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 label is given. Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Like many schools, the LAAC found that our students have been challenged by the social isolation and limited academic resources available during the COVID pandemic. This crisis has also substantially increased our student population from approximately twenty active students to an average enrollment of more than sixty. Mental health supports as well as classroom supports are in place to address the reduced graduation rate, increased dropout rate, and lower test scores connected with this crisis and evident on our AER.

State law requires that we also report additional information. Lawton Community Schools participates in both 105 and 105c School of Choice. Students in Van Buren County or districts in counties that border Van Buren County may apply to attend during announced school of choice windows. Lawton resident students in grades nine through twelve are placed in Lawton High School if they are sufficient credits to graduate in four years. Students who need additional supports to reach graduation on time and those who request alternative and/or virtual education are served through the Lawton Accelerated Academic Center (LAAC). Some students require

extensive supports and specialized instruction based on needs indicated in their IEP. These students are placed at Van Buren Intermediate School District. This is rare.

Lawton Community Schools is pursuing a District Improvement Plan through MICIP. Each building, including Lawton Accelerated Academic Center is pursuing research based strategies to enhance literacy, wellness, and STEM skills.

Lawton Community Schools follows the Michigan Department of Education's Core Curricula including Common Core Mathematics and English Language Arts, Next Generation Science Standards, and Michigan Standards for Social Studies, Physical Education, Health, and the Arts. In the LAAC, this curriculum is supported by the online platform Apex Learning.

Lawton Community Schools is also monitoring our Return to Learn Plan via use of standardized, research based assessments. The results of these assessments are regularly reported to the Board of Education.

Parent-teacher conferences are also an essential part of success for our learners. We have a system of communication in place that allows 100% of parents to engage in two-way communication throughout the term as well as to schedule a conference three times each year depending on student needs.

Students at the LAAC who wish to participate in dual enrollment or Advanced Placement offerings do so through full or partial enrollment at Lawton High School. No students did so during the 2020-2021 school year.

The LAAC continues to Return to Learn in a way that helps students meet our common vision of Strong, Motivated, and Ready. We are proud of the commitment of our students and staff each day!

Sincerely,

Tamara Webster