



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 High 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 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**, 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.

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.

Not unlike other Michigan schools, Lawton High School has areas of strength and areas for improvement. For a small school, we have a high percentage of students taking AP course work. In an average year, we have between 44-56% of our students scoring a three or better on the

AP exam. In 2020 the percentage was at 45%. Our AP teachers continue to stay current with best practices and AP test preparation for all of our students.

During the 2020-21 school year, Lawton High School had 33% of its Juniors meet or exceed the benchmark on the SAT showing a slight improvement from 2018-19 in which the percentage was 28%.

One challenge that has been a focus of improvement is student success in the area of mathematics. A variety of strategies have greatly reduced our number of failures in mathematics as well as increasing our enrollment in rigorous math classes. In 2020 there was an increase in the percentage of students proficient on the SAT to 34.4%. This was an increase from the previous test year which was 28%.

Students may also choose to attend the district's alternative school for full online instruction. If a student falls behind in credits, they will be assigned to the alternative school as the self-paced program in the alternative school provides the best opportunity for them to regain their position in their class. New students entering with insufficient credits are also assigned to the alternative school.

Lawton High School is proud to boast one of the highest graduation rates in the state. Each year, the rate is consistently between 95-100%. In 2020 that rate was 98.55%.

Lawton Community Schools is pursuing a District Improvement Plan through MICIP. Each building, including Lawton High School 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. As part of our multi-tiered system of supports, we focus on essential standards chosen from this curricula. A copy of our current essential standards is available from your child's teacher.

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.

During the 2020-21 school year, ten (14%) Lawton High School students participated in fifty college classes through dual enrollment. This represents approximately fourteen percent of eligible students. This number does not reflect the additional three students enrolled in the Early and Middle College Program. Additionally, we offered four Advanced Placement Classes. Total enrollment in these classes was 54. Eleven students (25%) of students participating in AP Exams had scores earning college credit.

At Lawton High School, we are proud of our accomplishments but are continually striving to improve. It is our goal to provide quality instruction and a wide variety of academic experiences to meet the needs of all students. Promoting academic excellence in a positive environment is a focal point in all we do.

Keep up the Blue Devil Pride!

Sincerely,

Tammy Wilson, Principal
Lawton High School