

## District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

08/09/11

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for the Big Rapids School District. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws; however, our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Deb Tyson, Director of Curriculum and Human Resources, for help if you need assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: [www.brps.org](http://www.brps.org) or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

The report contains the following information:

### **Student Assessment Data – Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and Michigan's Alternative Assessment Program (MI-Access)**

- Presents achievement data for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 (MEAP), for grade 11 (MME) and science for grades 5 and 8 compared to targets for all students as well as subgroups of students.
- Provides achievement data for English language arts, mathematics and science for students with significant disabilities (MI-Access) compared to targets for all students with disabilities as well as subgroups of students.
- Helps readers understand achievement progress within schools and compare these to district and state achievement.

### **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Detail Data and Status**

Provides information from assessments, graduation and attendance rates and AYP status in relation to four criteria:

- The district must test 95% of students in total and in each required subgroup.
- The district must attain achievement goals in English language arts and mathematics or reduce the percentage of students in the non-proficient category of achievement significantly ("safe harbor") annually.
- The district must attain achievement goals for each subgroup that has at least 30 students in the group.

- The district must meet or exceed the other academic indicators set by the state: graduation rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and middle schools.

### **Teacher Quality Data**

- Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels.
- Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes.

### **NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)**

- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8.
- Cannot be compared with MEAP results for grades 4 and 8 because there are no national standards.

For 2010-2011, Big Rapids Public School District made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. All schools in the district also made AYP. None of our schools were identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring.

Big Rapids Public Schools continues to be a leader, in the area, for student academic success. Our schools have won numerous recognitions and awards based on our students' academic performance. We have an extremely dedicated and well-trained staff, which will always put kids first. As a district, we want to continue to provide our students with opportunities to pursue their passions and to become lifelong learners. We will continue to work, as a team, to evaluate our processes and would welcome your input in helping us help our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (231) 796-2627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Haist". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "H".

Tim Haist  
Superintendent  
Big Rapids Public Schools