
February 1, 2017

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 Freedom Acres 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 Angela Miller for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.ioniaisd.org/freedomacres/> 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 identified as having been given one of these designations.

One key challenge for Freedom Acres, as evidenced by the data contained in this report, is to disaggregate data due to having less than ten learners at each grade level. Due to profound disabilities, it is a challenge to adjust instructional practices based on grade level expectations assessed by state assessments.

Partners in Building Full Potential

Serving the districts of Belding, Ionia, Lakewood, Portland, Saranac, Coon, Haynor, and North LeValley

It is the policy of Ionia County Intermediate School District that no person shall be subjected to discrimination in any educational program, service, or activity that it provides, nor in any employment for which it is responsible. As such, ICISD and its Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, military status, ancestry, or genetic information.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Freedom Acres school is a low incidence school for special education learners in Ionia County. The school is a single building that serves students from ages 2 ½ to 26 years of age. We partner with all of our local school districts and serve as the most restrictive setting on the continuum of special education programming.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Freedom Acres school has a 3-5 year school improvement plan that is updated annually. Our goals focus on continuous improvement of individualized benchmarks, as we strive for each learner to be proficient on their individualized benchmarks, which include academics, behavioral, social, physical, speech, and occupational services. A copy of the school improvement plan is available from Angela Miller at Freedom Acres or at the Ionia ISD.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Freedom Acres School is a specialized school for learners in the following programming: Severely Emotionally Impaired, Severely Cognitively Impaired, and Moderately Cognitively Impaired.

4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

Freedom Acres School is using the Michigan State Standards in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. Freedom Acres School is in the process of transitioning to the newly adopted State of Michigan Science Standards. Freedom Acres School currently utilizes the Michigan Grade Level content Expectations for Social Studies. In addition, our learners receive specialized instruction that is prescriptive and documented in their individualized education plans.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

One key challenge for Freedom Acres School, as evidenced by the data contained in this report, is to disaggregate data due to having less than ten learners at each grade level.

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Freedom Acres School conducts parent teacher conferences one time per year to allow for parents to seek additional feedback regarding their prescriptive individual education plans. Our school has 100% attendance at our individualized education plan meetings, which includes all itinerant service providers.

7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

Freedom Acres School offers high school age learners the opportunity to earn a certificate of completion, as well as a diploma. We currently have two learners seeking their diploma and our instructors utilize Edgenuity to meet the graduation requirements for the State of Michigan. All learners complete a transition plan as part of their individualized education plan starting at age 14 with 100% compliance by age 16. This plan reflects job skills, living arrangement as an adult, and community involvement. All of the learners in our high school program at Freedom Acres School complete a transition assessment and additional community based instruction.

It is a privilege to lead the dedicated staff at Freedom Acres School and to serve as their principal. We have made several technology improvements in our building and have been focused on literacy achievement, since the addition of our new elementary severely emotionally impaired classroom opening in the fall of 2016. Collaboration with community providers has become a focus with our building transition planning for high school learners and beyond.

Educationally yours,

Angela Miller
Freedom Acres School Principal