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School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 22, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2022-23 educational progress for Tawas Area Middle 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 Mrs. Sarah Danek for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website <http://www.tawas.net> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2022-23 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 2022-23. 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 2022-23. 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 2022-23. 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.

According to the data from the 2022-2023 MSTEP and PSAT assessments, Tawas Area Middle School outperformed the state in 6 out of 12 testing areas for grades 5-8. Specifically, the middle school students outperformed the state on all science and social studies assessments. The data also indicates achievement gaps between economically disadvantaged and non-economically disadvantaged students. There are also academic gaps when it comes to students with learning disabilities and those without. Increased social and emotional support such as additional social work staff and curriculum have been implemented to better prepare students to learn. Increased training in cooperative learning and instructional delivery has been provided to all teaching staff to ensure that all students are engaged and learning. Targeted professional development helps to address our achievement gaps and allow us to meet proficiency targets established by the state. We are also continuing our use of local benchmark assessments such as NWEA as a tool to

identify students needing intervention to be successful. This data will be important for us to analyze so that Tawas Area Middle School can continuously improve across all grade levels.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Tawas Area Middle School participates in "School of Choice" and welcomes students who accurately complete the process. All pupils enrolled at Tawas Area Schools grades 5th-8th are assigned to Tawas Area Middle School.
2. Tawas Area Middle School is continuing to work on our school improvement plan. We have a goal of improving the district and school climate for students K-12. We are using perception data, Skyward discipline referrals, attendance, extracurricular, course, and athletic engagement and participation as benchmarks for the current school year. We continue to monitor our goals and data to help us evaluate our assessments and instructional methods to ensure that we see increases in positive student outcomes.
3. The Tawas Area School District does not currently operate any specialized schools.
4. Tawas Area Middle School Curriculum is aligned to the National Common Core Standards for Math and Language Arts. These standards can be found online at: <http://www.corestandards.org/>. Michigan Social Studies standards can be found at <https://www.misocialstudies.org/>. All other curriculum areas are aligned to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations and these can be found online at: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>. Now that the new Social Studies standards have been adopted, we continue to provide staff with the necessary training and professional development to deliver the content to our students. Tawas Area School District is taking the necessary steps to stay current with any changes and to provide any resources and training for staff to deliver all the content accurately to our students. The Tawas Area Middle School Curriculum provides learning experiences in all areas of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, physical education, computer instruction, and foreign language. We are continually monitoring and updating our curriculum and instructional practices to meet the academic needs of all of our students.
5. The aggregate student achievement results for any local competency tests or nationally normed achievement test results are shown below:

2022/2023 School Year

<u>TEST</u>	<u>% Proficient</u>	<u>State Proficiency %</u>
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5 th Grade Math	28.9	31.5
5 th Grade ELA	56.1	43.9
5 th Grade Science	57.3	38.9
5 th Grade Social Studies	27.7	18.6
6 th Grade Math	14.4	29.6
6 th Grade ELA	32.5	37.5
7 th Grade Math	26.2	31.0
7 th Grade ELA	26.5	36.9
8 th Grade Math	33.0	36.3
8 th Grade ELA	61.6	59.7
8 th Grade Science	46.6	37.4
8 th Grade Social Studies	41.1	26.7

2021/2022 School Year

TEST	% Proficient	State Proficiency %
5 th Grade Math	25.0	30.0
5 th Grade ELA	46.4	43.1
5 th Grade Science	52.4	38.2
5 th Grade Social Studies	20.2	15.5
6 th Grade Math	25.3	28.4
6 th Grade ELA	25.3	37.6
7 th Grade Math	27.8	30.2
7 th Grade ELA	31.5	37.7
8 th Grade Math	36.5	36.2
8 th Grade ELA	63.5	59.7
8 th Grade Science	51.2	36.3
8 th Grade Social Studies	37.2	26.3

6. Tawas Area Middle School has a high level of parental involvement. Parent Teacher Conferences are held in the fall every year. In October of 2022, 57% of students were represented by a parent or guardian during parent-teacher conferences.

The students and staff at Tawas Area Middle School work diligently daily to provide a safe and healthy learning environment that is conducive to increasing student achievement. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the teachers, staff, students, and parents for continuing to build and work on increasing our levels of academic achievement yearly.

Sincerely,



Mrs. Sarah Danek