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## **MacGowan Elementary School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

August 20, 2013

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2012-2013 educational progress for the MacGowan 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 Kathleen Robbins at 313-242-3801 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [www.redfordu.k12.mi.us](http://www.redfordu.k12.mi.us) or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.

MacGowan school has not been given one of these labels.

All kindergarten and first grade students who reside in the Redford Union School District attend MacGowan School. The students are too young to take the MEAP and therefore we do not have a label assigned to us. It is the mission of MacGowan School staff to provide a strong literacy and numeracy foundation for the students in order for them to achieve success on the MEAP in future school years. Challenges for our school are students entering school with limited oral language, literacy, numeracy and social emotional skills. Additional challenges are poor student attendance and a high level of mobility.

1. All students who are kindergarten and first grade age residing in the school district are assigned to MacGowan School. MacGowan also has a Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP). The GSRP students are selected based on the Michigan Department of Education guidelines.

2. MacGowan School is a school wide Title 1 building and involved in a process of continuous improvement. We are dedicated to increasing the percentage of students who meet grade level expectations in literacy and numeracy and developing the vocabulary and social skills necessary for future school success. All Title 1 funds are utilized to provide interventions for at risk students. We are dedicated to building the foundation for learning success for our students. The school improvement plan is posted on our web site.
3. MacGowan School has the kindergarten and first grade center program for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The preschool, kindergarten and first grade center program for students with Hearing Impairments and the Preschool Special Education Programs are housed at MacGowan.
4. Redford Union Schools adopted Kent County's Curriculum Crafter last year. This curriculum is continually updated to the state model. We developed a scope and sequence and pacing guides during the 2012/2013 school year. Parents can obtain a copy of this information in the school office. We will be working on curriculum alignment and developing benchmark assessments during the coming school year.
5. All first grade students are given the Developmental Reading Assessment four times per year. While most students make over a years growth the percentage of students not meeting grade level expectations is about 45%. First grade students were given the NWEA in math and reading. Results showed over a years growth but around 45% of the students not meeting grade level expectations. Kindergarten students are given the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile four times per year. We have seen great improvement in the literacy skills of our kindergarten students with the implementation of full day kindergarten. We monitor our students' progress in math with common assessments and a progress monitoring tool.
6. 95% of parents attended parent teacher conferences in the fall. Spring conferences are optional.

MacGowan School staff will continue with their commitment to provide every student with the developmentally appropriate educational experiences needed to achieve success. We recognize the importance of parent involvement to student success and strive to build a partnership between parents and staff in order to help every child succeed.

Sincerely,

Kathleen A. Robbins  
Principal, MacGowan School