



School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 13, 2014

Dear Parents and Community Members:

In an effort to keep our parents informed we are providing you with the Annual Education Report (AER). The AER provides key information on the 2013-2014 educational progress for Pershing 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 Pershing High School for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <http://www.michigan.gov/ea> and click on Annual Education Reports, or you may review a copy in our main office.

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.

Our school has been identified as a Priority school. We take are rating very seriously and are working towards improving our status.

One area of concern for us is parental involvement. During the 2012-13 school year the number of parents/guardians in attendance during the Parent-Teacher Conference of 2012-2013 was 87, which was representative of 17% of the student population. For the 2013-14 school year with 520 students that number only slightly increased to 95 parents or 18% of our students.

Key challenges identified for Pershing include the content areas of Math, Science, Social Studies, and Writing. Ensuring at least 95% of students enrolled has also been an area needing improvement. In order to improve student achievement, Pershing High School has and is continuing to implement a variety of initiatives. One major action taken for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year has been a change of leadership in the building with the hiring of a new principal, Mrs. Brown. Other initiatives funded through Title I, School Improvement, Safe Supportive Schools, Lear Corporation, and various other sources include:

- During and after school tutoring;
- Paraprofessional support in classrooms;
- Additional counseling and mental health services;
- Teacher interventionists;
- Individualized professional development for educators and leaders based on research based interventions to support achievement;
- Parent and community workshops and events to build community support
- Professional ACT Test Preparation.
- Credit recovery options.
- Use of student data including: a. Implementation of instructional reviews focusing on short-term gains and data review by teachers. Use of data from state and district tests to identify potential strategies that can help students meet Career and College ready standards.
- Increased instructional time in English Language Arts, and transition to common core standards.
- Increased teacher collaboration time to provide both weekly and monthly opportunities to develop and implement strategies to support individual students.
- Implementation of a multi-tiered system of support that includes scaffold instruction for students with disabilities and English Language Learners
- Formation of a School Leadership Team to develop and implement new strategies for instruction and improved teaching.
- Performance series was provided to monitor and assess students' level of competency.
- Dual Enrollment courses will be offered.
- Receiving support from WSU math corps to improve math instruction.

Additional Information:

- 1. Pershing is an open school for all students in the State of Michigan.**
- 2. Pershing has completed year two and is entering into year three of implementation of the School Improvement Plan under the EAA. The School Improvement Team (SIT) has met and will continue to meet on at least on a monthly basis to implement and monitor the School Improvement Plan. The SIT consists of various school stakeholder groups including parents, students, vendors, community members, and staff members. Though subject area goals have not been met, Pershing's SIT continues to review and monitor the data and make necessary adjustments to the plan each year.**
- 3. Pershing is implementing a project based learning program. Students are supported by rigorous Science and Math through the STEAM (Science, Technology, Arts, and Music) program.**
- 4. Pershing is utilizing a Blended Learning Model to support instruction.**
- 5. Based on the year 2012-2013, our student's composite ACT test score is 13.8%, assessing 102 students. The MME composite, students were less than 10% in all areas of proficient in L2 and advanced in L1. Partially proficient in L3 in areas of Reading (32%), Social Studies (50%), Writing (62%). And, not proficient in L4 in areas of Mathematics (91%), Reading (59%), Sciences (95%), Social Studies (49%), Writing (36%).**

6. A parent coordinator will be present this year to track parent engagements through workshops, school support day and parent volunteer hours.

7. AP Biology and AP Chemistry will be a part of the curriculum this year.

As a parent of a child in a Title I School and Priority School, you have the right to participate in the decision making process. You are invited to participate on the School Improvement Team, as well as work with the school staff to make decisions regarding the Pershing High School Improvement Plan and Parent Involvement Policy. We are looking forward to working with you to best serve your student's needs this school year.

You are invited to attend our Annual Title I Meeting September 17, 2014, where you will find out more about our Title I program, including your right and responsibilities as a parent in a Title I school, and how students will be selected to participate in this program.

If you have questions about your student's Title I school, please call your student's school at 313-866-7700 or go to <http://icansoar.org/pershing/> on the Web for more information. We are looking forward to a year of educational success and continuous improvement for all of our students. Please continue to work with us to make sure that we achieve success for each student.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Shirley E. Brown, Principal
Pershing High School