



Dr. Jennifer Green  
Superintendent

24661 Lahser Road  
Southfield, MI 48033

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## Birney K-8 School

January 9, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2022-2023 educational progress for Alice M. Birney K-8 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 Mr. Edward Hill for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/2HVMM4T> 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 2021-22. 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 to Birney K-8.

Our continued focus is to consistently improve the number of students that are measured as being proficient on the state assessments and decreasing the gap between our highest and lowest achieving students. We are also devising plans to ensure that all students are tested (100%) during the assessment cycle. We are committed to improving the percentage of students that are proficient in both English language arts and mathematics. Efforts are also focused on improving progress on the social studies and science assessments to dramatically improve achievement in those content areas. Additionally, we continue to monitor and analyze data for our students that are scoring in the bottom thirty percent of the proficiency ranks to provide targeted interventions aimed to close the measured achievement gaps. Our school is aligned with the improvement strategies identified by our district: Alignment of curriculum to content standards;

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Development of standard based unit assessments to monitor progress; continued administration and data analysis of the I-Ready Assessment at least three times per year.

### **Process for Assigning Pupils to the School**

Students are assigned to a school based on their home address, school district boundaries and seating availability. If the student has an IEP the school assignment is based on the program availability provided at the assigned school.

All enrollment questions are referred to the Central Enrollment Office.

- Parent/legal guardian uploads completed enrollment forms and required documentation to the Central Enrollment Office. This is done on-line via the Southfield Public Schools website by a parent/legal guardian. Enrollment forms and documentation are not accepted at the student's school.
- Process after enrollment papers have been submitted to the enrollment office:
- New student information entered into MI-Star in the Central Enrollment Office.
- Building secretaries and/or counselors are notified via MI-Star notification. Student Data form and transcript (grades 9-12 only) are mailed to the secretary immediately.
- Secondary only – Parents and students are advised to call counselors or secretaries for scheduling appointments.
- 30-day placements are complete in the Student Services office. The caseload teacher and principal are notified of new Special Education students and sent a copy of the IEP.
- Completed Enrollment forms, report cards, and transcripts are sent to the building within 24 hours.

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## **Two-year Status of the 3-5 year School Improvement Plan (SIP)**

- The Birney K-8's School Improvement (SIP) was revised in 2021 after careful analysis of demographic perception, school process data, and student achievement data.
- This is a living document and is revised annually based on new data. Our plan is aligned with the District Improvement Plan and includes four goal areas: Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies.
- Based on the plan, staff will develop and implement lessons in the core curriculum areas that are aligned to the goals and objectives of the SIP.
- Dedicated time during staff meetings and school/district professional development days allows staff to have meaningful discussions regarding the implementation and success of various strategies.

## **Specialized Schools**

- The Bussey Preschool - All Bussey programs including Head Start and Great Start are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and licensed by Michigan's Family Independence Agency.
- Levey Middle School offers an Integrated STEM Program (science, technology, engineering, and math) for students who demonstrate a strong interest in these areas. An application process determines who will attend this innovative program.
- MacArthur K-8 University Academy is an application K-8 school of choice within Southfield Public Schools. MacArthur K-8 University Academy has partnerships with The University of Michigan-Dearborn and the Engineering Society of Detroit, and Michigan First Credit Union.
- Birney K-8 has fine-arts programming embedded within the student's daily curriculum. K-8<sup>th</sup> grade students are able to participate in fine arts programming such as choir, band, visual arts and dance classes. We have established a number of community partnerships which assists with enhancing our programming.
- University High School Academy and University High School Preparatory Academy- A school for parents and families who are highly motivated and who demonstrate a strong interest in Integrated STEM (science,

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technology, engineering, and math). This examination/application high school partners with the University of Michigan-Dearborn and Michigan First Credit Union. The educational process provides a variety of learning experiences flexible enough to allow for freedom to experiment and to make decisions conducive to personal growth.

- Vandenberg Elementary School, Thompson K-8 International Academy, and Southfield High School for the Arts and Technology: The school district now has three magnet ESL/bilingual schools. In an effort to provide improved rigor, consistency, and best practice, the elementary, middle and high school English language learners will be housed in an appropriate socio-cultural environment that is academically and cognitively challenging.
- Thompson K-8 International Academy and Southfield High School for the Arts and Technology are also IB World Campuses and join the community of state, private, national and international schools from every region of the world offering The IB Programs.

These are schools that share a common philosophy-a commitment to high quality, challenging, and international education that this school district believes is important for our students.

## **Core Curriculum Access**

The process of developing and implementing curriculum that is consistent with state and federal mandates is an on-going process with teacher-led curriculum writing teams being convened annually to develop, refine, and realign existing curriculum. The Division of Instruction has provided on-going awareness sessions and workshops dedicated to providing district administrators, teachers, and appropriate staff with information and guidance regarding the implementation of the district core curriculum in the classroom. The district core curriculum is formatted utilizing the Understanding by Design framework for developing curriculum. As a formatting method, this is a variance from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) model, however, it does not change or deviate from the concepts or content contained in the MDE Standards. In addition, the district is transitioning to the utilization of the Atlas platform to standardize implementation of core content over the next 2-4 years. The district is following an approved model and is being supported through this process by the ISD

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(Oakland). The district has executed two internal audits to assess current status and build out next steps.

### **Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Competency Tests or Nationally Normed Achievement Tests**

The only tests students will take this year are PSAT, M-STEP, MI-Access, WIDA for ELL, and I-Ready, Michigan Language Progress Profile (MLPP).

### **Parent-Teacher Conference**

Parent involvement is important for a student to experience academic success. During the 2022-2023 school year Parent-Teacher Conferences, approximately 80% of our parents attended representing 352 students. Parental turnout may be a result of families having immediate access to their student's progress via MiStar Parent Connect and other forms of electronic communication. The convenience may cause parents to bypass formal conferences to meet with their child's teacher.

### **Closing**

Birney K-8 is a community school that strives for continuous school improvement. We are committed to working with stakeholders to provide every student with the highest quality education within a safe and nurturing environment. We are dedicated to improving overall proficiency and will continue our efforts to demonstrate continuous school improvement each school year.

Sincerely,

**Edward Hill**

Edward Hill  
Principal, Birney K-8 School

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