



3662 Poinsettia Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508

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March 12, 2019

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2017-18 educational progress for New Branches Charter Academy. 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 Terry Larkin for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/2VTeK4W>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2017-18 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.

ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Analysis of M-Step Results and NWEA Testing indicate clear opportunities for improvement in the areas of Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies. Students at NBCA have outperformed the Composite Resident District in Reading Math for the last three years. We will continue to develop creative ways in scheduling, including a 35 minute intervention block called Owl University, to meet the needs of all learners and working with students who struggle in reading and math on essential skills in small group settings. In the 2017-2018 school year, enrollment increased by 115 students, which challenged the existing school culture and required positive changes to meet the needs of our existing and new students.



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State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. **PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

New Branches Charter Academy is a public school that offers open enrollment in grades K-8 for any student that resides in the state of Michigan.

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

The School Improvement Plan was developed through analysis of data from standardized assessments including NWEA-MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) as well as M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress) and locally collected data from classroom work and assessments.

The overall goal of the Academy is to provide a positive learning environment, along with a rigorous academic and cultural program where our children learn to become healthy, responsible citizens, life-long learners, and world leaders. Progress toward this objective will be measured by the development of the students' skills. All students will demonstrate their development of these skills by:

- Earning grade-level proficiency in all four areas of the core curriculum as measured by the M-Step; mastering test objectives presented by the NWEA Testing (Grades K-8); and by attaining the essential skills established and presented by the Academy at each grade level. In accordance with the Student Performance Goals identified in the Academy's Title I Schoolwide Program Plan, the Academy will work toward this overall objective by meeting the following goals:

- The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Reading will increase.
- The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Math will increase.
- The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Science will increase.
- The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Social Studies will increase.

3. **A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL**

Not applicable.

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**

A copy of the core curriculum can be reviewed in New Branches Charter Academy's main office. If you have any questions regarding the core curriculum, please contact the School Leader of New Branches Charter Academy for assistance.

The Academy's K-8 curriculum focuses on developing the basic skills of all students. Teachers understand they are building the foundation that will help their students become responsible citizens who are able to communicate, are scientifically literate, and mathematically powerful. The belief that every learner is unique is the underlying foundation of the educational program. In order to meet each student's particular learning needs, teachers take into consideration the individual needs of each student and plan lessons that use a variety of instructional strategies and materials. The goal is to ensure that students develop the reading, writing, mathematical and communication skills that are the foundation of more advanced learning.



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The Academy provides a high quality education which enables students to achieve mastery in all curricular areas. The curriculum reflects teaching approaches and learning activities that improve students’ abilities to inquire, analyze, and express themselves both critically and creatively. All students must meet essential skill requirements, designed by New Branches Charter Academy instructional staff, in order to be promoted to the next grade.

New Branches Charter Academy provides a curriculum which is continuously updated and challenging for all students. Curriculum and instructional strategies are both age and individually appropriate so that developmentally sound practices are in place. The experiences and knowledge young children bring to school, combined with their natural curiosity, are the foundations for learning in the primary grades. The New Branches Charter Academy educational program is designed to prepare students for college and career by developing their character and skills in Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies. The emphasis is on learning experiences which help children make connections between existing knowledge, new skills and information. All subject area outcomes are clearly defined, but learning is linked across these subject area boundaries. The New Branches Charter Academy core curriculum is decided upon by the Academy’s administration and instructional staff, and aligned to the state’s Common Core Curriculum. Teachers review and revise the curriculum annually. All students have the opportunity to learn the core curriculum.

The core academic subjects of Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies as well as special classes in Technology, Physical Education, Spanish and Environmental Education are key components of the educational program for all students. The basic educational program is combined with a safe and orderly learning environment and a continuous Character Choices education program to form a well-rounded elementary and middle school education for New Branches Charter Academy students. In addition, compensatory services are provided by a support staff of full-time certified teachers for students that qualify for this form of assistance. The Academy features one full-time and one part-time Special Education teachers and contracts Speech and Language Therapists, Social Workers, and Education Psychologists to accommodate the individual needs of the students. Beginning in 2014-15, New Branches Charter Academy facilitated a Summer School Program (for Grades K-8) to provide additional learning opportunities for students performing in the bottom 30%.

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

Students in Grades K-8 were administered the English Language Arts, Reading, and Math sections of NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessments in September, January, and May beginning in 2017-2018 (students in grades K-1 were assessed two times in 2016-2017). The MAP is an online assessment that each class in Grades K-8 completed in the Academy’s Technology Lab and/or in the classroom. The results for the past two years are charted below.

2016-2017 NWEA MAP RESULTS

Reading

Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT*
2	161	184	186
3	189	198	201
4	195	205	208



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5	201	212	215
6	209	215	218
7	206	214	222
8	221	224	227

2016-2017 NWEA MAP RESULTS

Math

Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT*
2	163	187	191
3	186	196	204
4	199	211	214
5	206	223	224
6	211	219	229
7	212	225	236
8	220	229	242

2017-2018 NWEA MAP RESULTS

Reading

Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT*
K	136	155	165
1	162	175	179
2	175	186	186
3	181	197	201
4	193	204	208
5	204	206	215
6	213	214	218
7	209	214	222
8	213	221	227

Math

Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT*
K	132	157	164
1	158	176	181
2	176	192	191
3	182	197	204
4	195	211	214
5	207	214	224
6	212	219	229
7	213	217	236
8	217	225	242

*College and career readiness benchmarks



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

The parent-teacher conference participation rate is the percentage of students who were represented by a parent(s)/guardian at the parent-teacher conference. Our goal is 100%. Each year, the percentage of students represented has increased.

	2016-2017	2017-2018
Conference Participation Rate	98%	99%
	238/250 students represented	332/337

Thank you for your support throughout the 2017-2018 school year! We are looking forward to the progress we will make in the upcoming school year with your partnership!

Sincerely,

Terry Larkin