

## District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 21, 2012

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for the Cass City Schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws; however, our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Jeff Hartel, Superintendent, for help if you need assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [www.casscityschools.org](http://www.casscityschools.org) or you may review a copy in the superintendent's office.

The report contains the following information:

### **Student Assessment Data– Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), Michigan Merit Exam (MME), and Michigan's Alternative Assessment Program (MI-Access)**

- Presents achievement data for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 (MEAP), for grade 11 (MME) and science for grades 5 and 8 compared to targets for all students as well as subgroups of students
- Provides achievement data for English language arts, mathematics and science for students with significant disabilities (MI-Access) compared to targets for all students with disabilities as well as subgroups of students
- Helps readers understand achievement progress within schools and compare these to district and state achievement

### **Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) – Detail Data and Status**

Provides information from assessments, graduation and attendance rates and AYP status in relation to four criteria:

- The district must test 95% of students in total and in each required subgroup
- The district must attain achievement goals in English language arts and mathematics or reduce the percentage of students in the non-proficient category of achievement significantly ("safe harbor") annually
- The district must attain achievement goals for each subgroup that has at least 30 students in the group

- The district must meet or exceed the other academic indicators set by the state: graduation rate for high schools and attendance rate for elementary and middle schools

#### **Teacher Quality Data**

- Identifies teacher qualifications at district and school levels
- Reports percentage of core academic classes taught by teachers not considered highly qualified to teach such classes

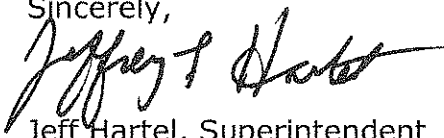
#### **NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)**

- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8
- Cannot be compared with MEAP results for grades 4 and 8 because there are no national standards.

For 2010-2011, Cass City Schools made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. All schools in the district also made AYP. None of our schools were identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring. Cass City High School and Campbell Elementary were identified by the Michigan Department of Education as REWARD schools. This means that both schools top five percent of schools on the annual Top To Bottom ranking of all Michigan schools and the top five percent of schools making academic gains over the previous four years.

**We are very proud of the efforts of our students, teaching staff, administration, support staff and school. Students in the Cass City Public School district are making academic gains and rank among the top schools not only in the Thumb of Michigan but statewide as well. 2011 – 2012 was a good year for our district and we look forward to even better things for the 2012 – 2013 school year.**

Sincerely,



Jeff Hartel, Superintendent  
Cass City Public Schools