

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

08/09/10

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2009-2010 educational progress for New Directions High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Josh Easler, Coordinator, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the district website at www.brps.k12.mi.us or you may review a copy from the New Directions High School office.

For 2009-2010, New Directions High School made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and did not receive a grade for mathematics; however, the school is still identified for corrective action. We have made the following corrective actions in the past two years: realigned our curriculum, adjusted our course schedule, and switched our programming to online instruction. New Directions must make AYP for two consecutive years to no longer be identified for improvement. Parents can become involved in this process by contacting the New Directions office.

New Directions High School is a specialized alternative school that offers students the opportunity to accelerate their learning in a smaller setting. Students at New Directions are at the school for a myriad of reasons: most are behind their classmates in credits and need to catch up to graduate on time, some have had discipline problems at their feeder school, yet others like the smaller setting or the method of instruction.

Our curriculum at NDHS is closely aligned with the state high school content expectations. Students are expected to meet both the State of Michigan's graduation requirements and Big Rapids Public Schools graduation requirements. Specific information about our curriculum is available at New Directions High School's main office.

State law requires that we also report this additional information:

- New Directions had minimal students taking the ACT, thus the state did not calculate our school's results, but our average score is 16.8 and the state average is 19.1.

- NDHS currently offers 15 advanced placement courses through our Apex Learning online courses. They include AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Chemistry (DL), AP Physics B, AP Psychology, AP English Language and Composition, AP English Literature and Composition, AP Macroeconomics, AP Microeconomics, AP U.S. Government and Politics, AP U.S. History, AP French Language and Composition, AP Spanish Language and Composition
- New Directions High School has no students enrolled in advanced placement courses and thus did not have any students earn college credit from these courses.
- New Directions did not have any students dual enroll in the past two school years (students taking college courses while in high school).
- 23% of New Directions students (14 of 62) were represented by their parent or guardians at parent-teacher conferences.

New Directions High School continues to do our best to ensure student academic success. We have identified the areas where we need to improve and have set goals in order to improve in those areas. We will continue to evaluate our processes and would welcome your input in helping us help our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at (231) 796-3489.

Sincerely,



Josh Easler
Coordinator
New Directions High School