

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 21, 2010

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 the ANN ARBOR LEARNING COMMUNITY. 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 Ticheal Jones for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site www.annarborlearningcommunity.org or you may review a copy from the Ann Arbor Learning Community's office at your child's school.

For 2009-2010, Ann Arbor Learning Community made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

Annual Report

Each year, the Ann Arbor Learning Community creates an annual report summarizing information about the previous school year. This report has been prepared in compliance with both the Michigan state requirements and the federal No Child Left Behind laws.

AALC History

The Ann Arbor Learning Community was founded in 1998 under the leadership of John Dillon, interested parents, and staff members. AALC was chartered by Eastern Michigan University. The school has completed its eighth year of operation as a Michigan Public School Academy. The student body has grown from 70 to 268 students over a period of eleven years.

The Eastern Michigan University Regents renewed the AALC Charter in 2003, for its second five-year term. The school is located at 3980 Research Park Dr., Ann Arbor, Michigan. The Board of Directors reached an agreement for a ten year, long-term rental for the school in the fall of 2005. Members of the school community worked with architects and the building owner to design and renovate the current facility specifically for our use.

In the spring of 2008 AALC's charter was renewed for an additional five years. Developing the latest charter was an intensive endeavor completed through the leadership of staff members, specific board members, and community members.

AALC Mission Statement

- *The mission of Ann Arbor Learning Community is to nurture independent learners as they acquire the tools they need to shape an environmentally and socially responsible future.*

- *In a supportive, student-centered community that appreciates uniqueness, AALC helps students develop a strong sense of self and lifetime love of learning.*
- *The school fosters the development of essential life skills and core academic knowledge through small, multi-aged classrooms that honor the learning and creative strengths of each student.*

AALC Philosophy

Ann Arbor Learning Community is committed to the rigorous development of student intellect, curiosity, and cooperation with a focus on helping students value themselves, their peers, and their community. A safe and nurturing environment supports the social and emotional development of children, which is fundamental for effective student learning. Our learning community, made up of students, teachers, staff, and families working together affirms and supports a variety of learning styles and believes that students require multiple opportunities to demonstrate their mastery of concepts. Student's understanding of how they learn empowers them. In our pursuit we promote participatory learning that is experiential, student-centered, developmentally based and individualized to student's particular learning styles and strengths.

Core Curriculum

Ann Arbor Learning Community's Core Curriculum consists of Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and Fine Arts. Students' progress along the curriculum continues at their own individual pace. The Core Curriculum is available on the school website at www.annarborlearningcommunity.org.

AALC School Improvement Goals

One of the continual goals of the Ann Arbor Learning Community is to see each students gain at least one month of growth on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills for each month of instruction.

The AALC School Improvement Team made developed two long range goals developed with input from parents and staff needs assessments and in conjunction with student achievement data and educational research. The tow goals were to improve skills and application of mathematical concepts and to improve skills and application of the writing process.

The staff implemented more comprehensive direct instruction strategies in reading instruction. Staff attended various professional development activities through the year focusing on specific strategies for teaching in a multiage classroom, meeting the needs of special education students and developing a more thoroughly connected community. Student post assessment indicates an increase in student skills in reading, language, and math this year.

Process for Assigning Students

The Ann Arbor Learning Community accepts applications from any student who resides in the State of Michigan, who meets the state age requirements and who would expect to attend Kindergarten through Eighth grade. According to state law, students are eligible to attend AALC if they are five years old by December 1st of the year that they seek enrollment.

Application Process

Families are encouraged to attend Open Houses, to visit the school, to observe in classrooms and to contact the Dean for any questions or concerns that families might have about the school in regard to their own student.

Enrollment Period

Our formal enrollment period is held during the first three months of each calendar year. One day in February is designated as our Enrollment Day (see the AALC School Calendar). On that date all applications are tallied and compared to our anticipated openings for the following school year.

Sibling Priority

State law provides that siblings of enrolled students have priority over other applicants. The number of siblings will be subtracted from the places available.

Total Number of Applicants

If there are fewer applications than openings for a grade level, all applications will be immediately accepted. If the number of applications for a grade level exceeds the openings, the Dean will arrange the lottery to establish a waitlist. The lottery would occur within two days following the Enrollment Day under the supervision of the Eastern Michigan University Charter School Office. The applicants will be listed in the order drawn and as spaces become available they will be offered to families in the order that their student's name appears on the waitlist. Families may, but are not required to, attend the lottery. Families will be notified the day following the lottery of their placement. Families seeking enrollment after the waitlist has been established will be placed in the order received at the end of the list.

Parent-Student-teacher Conferences

Each year the school schedules two formal parent-student-teacher conferences for families and teachers to discuss student goals, progress, and academic and social skills. These conferences took place in the fall and in the spring. 241 (92%) students were represented during the 2009-2010 school year conferences.

Multiple Measures of Student Progress

Ann Arbor Learning Community assesses student progress in many different ways. We use objective-based standardized assessments: Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP), IOWA Test of Basic Skills and the Brigance Test of Basic Skills. In addition to these, we use collections of student work, portfolios, and a variety of other authentic assessments (science projects, Michigan History Day competition, performances, etc.) to monitor student achievement.

IOWA Test of Basic Skills Assessments

AALC uses a nationally normed test called the IOWA Test of Basic Skills to determine what students know and can achieve each spring. We use the results to determine student achievement levels from year to year. Our students made gains in reading, language, and math this past year. This year shows student achievement growth for one year's instruction between nine months and one year and two month.

In closing, I want to personally thank each parent, teacher and student for their hard work, dedication and partnership in ensuring student success.

Sincerely,
Ticheal Jones, Dean

