



**2015 – 2016  
Durand Area Schools  
Bertha Neal Elementary**

**School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

January 29, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-2016 educational progress for Bertha Neal Elementary. 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 the school principal, Hattie Rainer, at 989-288-2016 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://neal.durand.schooldesk.net/> or you may review a copy in the principal's office at your child's school.

The key challenges that we face at Bertha Neal Elementary revolve primarily around the rapid changes with the early childhood learner. Benchmarks change quickly in all areas, requiring the consistent monitoring to ensure that students are meeting expectations.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. Our school has not been identified with a label due to our building being a Preschool – First Grade student level.

As of the 2015-2016 school year, all students are assigned to the school based on grade level, student need, and equity for optimum classroom size. Students are well represented with 98% of our families attending the annual parent-teacher conferences. Student achievement results can be reviewed in the combined report available on the school website.

Our Professional Learning Goals at Bertha Neal Elementary School this past year centered upon three target goal areas. As we continue with our goals, we also align our curriculum with the Common Core State Standards. Our building goals for Kindergarten – First Grade are as follows for the 2016-2017 school year: All students will be proficient in early numeracy skills, such as: number identification, counting fluency, missing number, quantity discrimination along with increased exposure to problem solving skills and as measured by M-STEP, AIMSWEB, DIBELS and local End-of-School-Year Assessments. All students will improve their early reading readiness skills, such as: phonemic awareness, fluency, and comprehension as measured by M-STEP, DIBELS, MLPP-DRA, and local End-of-School-Year Assessments. Finally, all students will improve proficiency in early writing skills as continuously measured by local assessments. Curriculum information can be obtained through the classroom teacher or main office.

I congratulate our hard-working staff, students, and dedicated families for their outstanding efforts to make Durand Area Schools such a wonderful place in which to learn and excel. We will continue to strive for excellence in all that we do and greatly appreciate the support of the Durand community in our educational endeavors.

Sincerely,

Hattie E. Rainer  
Bertha Neal Elementary, Principal