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## 2019-20 School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 7, 2019

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Our Annual Education Report (AER) is available and provides key information on the 2018-19 educational progress for the Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center. 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 Lisa Heyne at [heynel@childdiscoverycenter.org](mailto:heynel@childdiscoverycenter.org) or 616.459.0330 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://bit.ly/2N12mOE> or you may review a paper copy in the main office.

For the 2018-19 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 a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. 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.

**Our school was not identified with a label!**

When looking deeply at the 2018-19 data within the AER, our challenge continues to be maintaining consistent growth among all student groups from year to year. Our two largest student subgroups show significant academic disparities for students of color and those with economically disadvantaged status. To address these disparities, the GRCDC recommit to the initiatives established in 2018-19 aimed at a values aligned educational experience for all children. Our partnership with [MiExcel](#) is our primary strategy for a systemic reconfiguration aimed at disrupting the status quo to save the lives of all children. Through the implementation of this turnaround model, we commit to:

- **Continued School Culture Strategies**, including Year 2 of the social/emotional learning curriculum, Responsive Classroom techniques, the partnership with the MIBLSI Equity Project, 10+ professional learning hours to complete the Conscious Discipline online module, clarifying and writing our student code of conduct and family handbook and using SWIS to quickly identify students in need of specialized behavior support.
- **Academic Strategies:** The GRCDC's School Improvement Plan's strategies aim to better align curriculum and assessment, deepen teacher collaborative routines, strengthen the commitment to instructional planning, situate instructional coaching within established Visions of High Quality, Subject Specific Instruction and increase observation of teaching and learning.

State law requires that we also report additional information for the past two years. All links can be reviewed in the main office upon request.

1. The GRCDC is a public school academy, chartered under Grand Rapids Public School District, serving students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth grade. *The mission* of the GRCDC is to continuously expand the potential of children, the experiences of educators and the involvement of parents within a diverse community of Grand Rapids, Michigan. *The vision* is to base all decisions on the principles of Reggio-Emilia incorporating current research on learning as well as developmentally appropriate practice.
2. The GRCDC's open enrollment process and application is available on the <https://childdiscoverycenter.org/enrollment/>.
3. Our 2015-2019 school-wide achievement data is summarized here for [English Language Arts](#) and [Math](#) or is accessible at [mischooldata.org](http://mischooldata.org) in full.
4. In June of 2019, the GRCDC's Board approved the 2019 School Improvement Plan with academic and school culture goals to be reached by June 2020. It can be [accessed here](#).
5. Our core curriculum is aligned to Michigan's state standards. Access to the curriculum and a description of its implementation can be made available upon request in the main office.
6. As of 2018-19, the GRCDC began using the NWEA MAP Growth assessment in Reading and Math for all grades. A breakdown of the 2018-19 growth data can be reviewed [here](#).
7. In 2018-19, 97% percent of students were represented by their parents during parent teacher conferences. And in 2017-18, 96% of parents attended conferences.

The GRCDC's reports linked in this letter indicate strength in overall growth targets met and the significant challenge of academic disparities among our student groups. The Board of Directors and staff are fully aligned in the path forward to provide an equitable education for all children. And as we continue to reconfigure our work together, the support of our families and community stakeholders is invaluable. Please contact me via email or phone with any questions

Sincerely,



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