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Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter 2020-2021
Elk Rapids High School & Sunrise Academy Alternative High School

February 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the **2019-2020 educational progress** for Elk Rapids High School (ERHS) and Sunrise Academy Alternative High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. Each school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Principal Michael J. Travis for assistance.

The ERHS AER is available for you to review electronically at the following link https://bit.ly/3u2FJ06. The Sunrise Academy AER is available for you to review at the following link https://bit.ly/378iwQ4. You may also review a copy of these reports in the main office at your child's school. The Combined AER for the Elk Rapids School District can be found at www.erschools.com.

For the 2019-20 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 has not been given one of these labels.

There were some highlights for the 2019-2020 school-year, however due to the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic it was the most challenging year that anyone can remember. When referring to the AERs for Elk Rapids High School and Sunrise Academy, one of the key challenges is a lack of assessment data from the PSAT and SAT as students did not take state assessments last spring due to COVID19. Without this data identification of student achievement and curriculum gaps is more difficult. When referencing the Four-Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates on the AERs for both schools, another key challenge may be hitting Interim Objective and Long-Term Target graduation rates. Some of the reasons for this may include learning gaps, low grades, potential loss of credit, and social-emotional issues due to the cumulative effects of prolonged remote learning phases as well as numerous students in COVID19 related quarantine at different times. Some initiatives and efforts identified in our multi-tiered system of supports being undertaken to address these concerns,

include free tutoring and academic support available to all students during lunch periods, after school, and on Saturdays. Additionally, individual and group counseling is available and data gathered from a social-emotional student and staff assessment is being used to identify areas of focus for implementing social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum. Lastly, expanded versions of our traditional summer school are being explored to aid in credit recovery and remediation of learning.

Key Highlights:
Elk Rapids High School continues to thrive and improve and one measure of our success is evidenced in the annual **U.S. News & World Report of America's Best High Schools** rankings published each spring. In the 2020 state rankings, ERHS is ranked #22 out of 1147 Michigan high schools. This equates to the Top 2% of high schools in Michigan. Previously our highest state ranking was #48. ERHS is the highest ranked high school in Northern Michigan and only 1 of 3 from the area to make the Top 50 (TC Central #38 & Roscommon #50). In the 2020 national rankings, ERHS is ranked #844 out of 17,245 high schools in the USA. This equates to the Top 5% of high schools in the nation. Previously our highest national ranking was #1286.

According to Newsweek Magazine, Elk Rapids High School is ranked #4019 in the nation and #104 in the State of Michigan in the **Newsweek Top 5,000 STEM High Schools for 2020.** Nationally, almost 32,000 public and private high schools, and over 1000 schools in Michigan were analyzed over a three-year period to determine the rankings. Newsweek, with its long history of reporting on scientific breakthroughs, technological revolutions and societal challenges, partnered with STEM.org to rank America's Best STEM High Schools. Elk Rapids High School is proud to be a leader in **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, and **M**ath (STEM) learning opportunities.

State law requires that we also report on some of the additional information below:

School Assignment: Elk Rapids has two high schools: Elk Rapids High School and Sunrise Academy Alternative High School. All district and school of choice students will attend Elk Rapids High School unless they apply for and are granted admission to Sunrise Academy (SA). Parents and students interested in applying to Sunrise Academy may pick up applications at the ERHS office or the superintendent's office.

School Improvement Plan: In September of 2018, the MDE established new guidelines and procedures for school improvement and accountability. Again in the fall of 2020, the MDE changed these processes and structures to the new Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process The high school staff will continue to learn about and implement these expectations as they evolve to be sure we are meeting and exceeding the requirements set forth by the new and changing laws. Using our vision document and District Strategic Plan as a road map to the future, the ERHS/SA staff will continue to establish and achieve improvement goals in academic and affective areas of importance. The ERHS and Sunrise Academy staff embraces change, accepts challenges, and believes that through application of renaissance concepts including rebirth and reinvention Elk Rapids High School is a world class school that pursues excellence as a means to continuous improvement.

Specialized Schools & Advanced Placement Career and Technical Education: Students at both ERHS and SA have the opportunity to attend career and technical classes at the Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District (TBAISD) Career-Tech Center (CTC), which offers over twenty program areas utilizing the latest technology and state-of-the-art equipment. These are excellent programs and should be seriously considered as an educational option by all students. All CTC programs are approved by the MDE and are taught by certified instructors in each specific field.

Honors Academy: Beginning with the Elk Rapids High School Graduating Class of 2011, students were able to become part of an elite cohort of learners with shared aspirations for future academic

and career success. The Honors Academy is a school within a school for motivated learners and incorporates specialized programming that includes College Board approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses. All 12 AP Courses offered at ERHS as well as approved online AP offerings utilize the 4.33/4.00 weighted grading scale as opposed to the standard 4.00/4.00 grading scale applied to all other courses at ERHS. Students who pass the end of course AP Exams with a qualifying score are eligible for college credit at most colleges and universities in the nation. Qualifying scores vary by institution. In addition, Honors Academy students graduate from ERHS with "distinction"—designated on their diploma, and their gown is adorned with special honor cords – by completing at least four Advanced Placement (AP) classes and sitting for four AP exams. The AP courses offered at ERHS include AP Language & Composition, AP Literature & Composition, AP Psychology, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, AP US History, AP World History, AP US Government & Politics, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A, and AP Studio Art. Each graduating class at ERHS will have an average of 12 students that receive Honors Academy recognition.

Core Curriculum: Elk Rapids High School and Sunrise Academy continually stays abreast of the core curriculum recommendations which come from the Michigan Department of Education and the National Department of Education. The core curriculum at ERHS and Sunrise Academy is aligned with and implemented following the Michigan Merit Curriculum and the national standards for math, English, science, and social studies. In addition to a dozen College Board approved Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and over 100 courses offered online, our students have elective opportunities in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), social studies, language arts, business, physical education, performing arts, visual arts, and music. In 2012-2013 ERHS began offering onsite dual enrollment AutoCAD/Engineering through Baker College. Dual enrollment courses are also available to students at the Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) campus in Traverse City. The curriculum and course offerings at ERHS are available online in the ERHS Course Guidebook. The Sunrise Academy curriculum and course offerings are available online in the Sunrise Academy Course Guidebook.

Student Achievement Results: We are very proud of the ERHS Class of 2021 for their performance on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Our high school scores bested those of nearly all high schools north of Midland. Our composite SAT score of 1107 was the 5th time in the last 6 years where the average exceeded 1100. With a mean score of 560 on the Evidenced Based Reading & Writing (EBRW) portion of the SAT 77% of our juniors met or exceeded the College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) of 480. With a mean score of 547 on the Mathematics portion of the SAT 59% of our juniors met or exceeded the College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) of 530. The percentage of junior testers that met or exceeded both benchmarks was 54%. The ERHS Class of 2020 scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) bested those of all high schools north of Midland except one. Our composite SAT score of 1094 was #57 and only one of two high schools in all of Northern Michigan to be recognized in the **M-Live's ranking of the Top 78 high schools** in the state. With a mean score of 541 on the Evidenced Based Reading & Writing portion of the SAT 73% of our juniors met or exceeded the College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) of 480. With a mean score of 553 on the Mathematics portion of the SAT 64% of our juniors met or exceeded the College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) of 530. The percentage of junior testers that met or exceeded both benchmarks was 58%. We are very pleased, but will never be satisfied and are exploring ways to improve.

The Sunrise Academy Class of 2020 consisted of 11 testers. The mean SAT score for these students was 783. With a mean score of 386 on the Evidenced Based Reading & Writing portion of the SAT, none of the juniors met the College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) of 480. With a mean score of 396 on the Mathematics portion of the SAT, none of the juniors met the College Readiness Benchmark (CRB) of 530. The Sunrise Academy Class of 2020 consisted of only 4 testers and fell below the

reportable threshold. However, the mean SAT score was 888, the EBRW mean score was 463 and the Math mean score was 425. Two of the 4 testers in this class exceeded the EBRW CRB of 480.

Parent Teacher Conferences: ERHS Conferences in the fall of 2018 were conducted face-to-face in teacher classrooms with 25% (100) of students represented. ERHS Conferences in the spring of 2019 were conducted face-to-face in teacher classrooms with 13% (50) of students represented. ERHS Conferences in the fall of 2019 were conducted face-to-face in teacher classrooms with 27% (110) of students represented. Due to COVID19 related school closure there were no parent-teacher conferences offered in the spring of 2020. Fall 2020 Conferences at ERHS were conducted in face-to-face and virtual formats with 95 (23%) students represented. Conferences at Sunrise Academy over the last two years have been offered in face-to-face and virtual formats with an average of 10 (50%) students represented. Despite the addition of virtual conferencing, COVID19 has had a negative effect on parent attendance at conferences.

Dual Enrollment & College Equivalent Courses: There were 25 students dual enrolled during the 18-19 school year, which is an estimated 20% of eligible students from the junior and senior classes. During 2019-2020 there were 20 students dual enrolled, which is an estimated 20% of eligible students from the junior and senior classes. For the past two years, ERHS has offered 12 college equivalent Advanced Placement (AP) courses. In 2018-2019, 99 out of the estimated 280 eligible students were enrolled in AP courses, which was about 35% of our student population. In 2019-2020, 104 out of the estimated 280 eligible students were enrolled in college equivalent AP courses, which was about 37% of our student population. In 2018-2019, 112 out of the 160 (70%) AP exams taken received a score that led to college credit. In 2018-2019, 68 students out of the 99 (68%) who took AP exams earned a passing score. In 2019-2020 there were 109 out of the 179 (60%) AP exams taken that resulted in a score that led to college credit. In 2019-2020, 70 students out of the 104 (67%) who took AP exams earned a passing score. Our participation and pass rates in the AP Program have continued to grow and improve over the past decade. On average we administer 165 exams to 95 students annually. Additionally, we exceed the state and national pass rates for almost all subject areas tested.

We are actively working to address the gap between our highest achieving students and our struggling students. We are aware of the challenges we face in closing this gap. In this effort, we are continuing to provide additional teacher support for our At-Risk and Economically Disadvantaged students in grades 9-12 at both Elk Rapids High School and Sunrise Academy. This continued staff support in the areas of counseling, mathematics, science, language arts, and social-emotional learning is making a positive impact. Furthermore, we continue to adjust modifications and support to our special education population.

We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in our academic efforts. The Elk Rapids High School leadership team as well as the district's K-12 Curriculum Committee meet regularly and work together in an effort to improve instructional effectiveness and maximize student achievement. We eagerly meet the challenge of addressing our achievement gaps and using technology, engagement, social-emotional supports, extended learning opportunities, and especially relationships to help us get there! With your support, we look forward to another great year. Go Elks!

Sincerely,

Michael J. Travis

Michael J. Travis, Principal
Elk Rapids High School
Sunrise Academy