

June 2014

Dear EGRPS Families,

Over the past several months a variety of concerns have been shared with the Superintendent and the Board of Education regarding EGRPS special education programs and services. The Superintendent and Board of Education took these concerns seriously and as a result requested that an Annual Report for Special Education be presented during the regular board meeting on June 10, 2014. The Board of Education also provided an extended opportunity for parents to share their concerns during the meeting. As a district, we believe that the strength of any effective educational program is based and built on a collaborative culture between staff, students, and parents.

East Grand Rapids Public Schools offers a continuum of special education programs and services including early childhood services, resource programs, and categorical classrooms. Special education professional staff includes: special education teachers, school psychologists, school social workers, speech and language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and teacher consultants. Our professional staff members provide instruction and support for our students with disabilities and their families. East Grand Rapids Public Schools also collaborates with other public school districts within Kent County and Kent Intermediate School District to provide educational options for our students.

The intent of the following information is to respond to the concerns shared by parents and to provide general information regarding special education. We have included a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document of general facts on special education which includes specific responses to concerns and comments shared by parents; and the Annual Report for Special Education which was shared at the June 10 Board of Education meeting. In addition, the district has posted documentation from the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (OSE) Investigation, which was conducted as a result of allegations filed against the district during the 2012-2013 school year. The OSE investigation found that the East Grand Rapids Public Schools were not in violation of any of the allegations specifically filed against the special education program and services; thus, no corrective actions were required of the district. This investigation permitted our district the opportunity to review program and services within special education and we are proud of the findings from the OSE.

As a district we are committed to meeting the learning needs of all of our students. We hope that you find value in this information presented in our effort to always communicate openly and with full transparency regarding the programs and services we offer to our students.

Sincerely,



Sara Magaña Shubel, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

[Special Education Action Plan](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
[Annual Report Special Education](#)  
[Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education \(OSE\) Investigation](#)

On March 25, 2013, the Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education (OSE) received a complaint against the East Grand Rapids Public School District. The OSE issued a Final Report on the investigation dated April 25, 2013, that concluded that the school district was not in violation of any of the allegations specifically filed against the special education program and services; thus, no corrective actions were required.

