



February 10, 2017

Dear Walden Green Montessori Parents and Community Members:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress of Walden Green Montessori. 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. Should you have any questions about the AER, please contact our principal Mark Neidlinger for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/QpsjS9> , or you may review a copy in the main office of the school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases no label is given.

Walden Green Montessori has not been given any of the labels listed above. Rather, we are continuing with our strategic growth initiatives addressing both enrollment and academic growth

Our faculty has spent the past three years implementing targeted assessments (STAR, Fountas and Pinnell, and CBM) in both reading and mathematics to improve our curriculum, but we have also implemented professional learning meetings at each cycle to strategize on improving our instruction. This has helped us to tighten the gaps we have found in our achievement and certainly helped us to raise the expectation for all stakeholders: parents, teachers and students.

The AER also addresses the following items. All items are in compliance with our last two years of information:

1. **PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL.** Each year we hold both a re-enrollment period for our current families, followed by an open enrollment period for new families wishing to join our school community. When we have more applications than open positions, we hold a random lottery. You can find out further details by reading the attachment:

2016-2017 Enrollment Guidelines and dates.pdf

2. **THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:**

Goal 1: All students will increase skills in mathematical problem solving, concepts, and computation at all grade levels by a minimum of 3%.

- 6 teachers have undergone EBLI training
- Lower grade teachers have been retrained on Fountas and Pinnell
- Title 1 teacher has been hired to address students who need extra supports and to assist in ongoing staff training with running records and assessment tools
- Section 31a teacher addresses students who have significant disadvantages, primarily in mathematics
- Capstone students become weekly mentors to younger students
- Middle School reading buddies
- STAR reading assessment provided three times annually
- Fountas and Pinnell assessment is administered three times annually.
- EdPerformance is assessed three times annually

Goal 2. Student proficiency in the following writing styles; informational, argumentative/opinion, explanatory, and narrative.

- Professional Development provided by Mark Roessing and Emily Kienke
- Scheduled writing calendar of assignments
- Maintenance of portfolios in all grade-levels
- Ongoing development of writing rubric 3-6<sup>th</sup> grade
- Professional Learning meetings during shared prep periods and afterschool sessions
- Implementation of Words Their Way to build vocabulary

Goal 3. All students will increase skills in mathematical problem solving, concepts, and computation at all grade levels by a minimum of 3%.

- Professional Development in Montessori math at the cycle team level
- Staff developed mathematics curriculum for upper grades
- Greater emphasis has been placed on M-Step like questions

- Student accounts have been provided for online math inventory assessments
- Shared expertise of our Section 31a teacher that is math endorsed
- Purchase of additional Montessori math works at the k/1 level and the 2/3 level to build competency
- K/1 divided into four ability groups to target instruction
- 4/5 divided into math rotation groups based on ability level

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL:

Walden Green Montessori is located in the beautiful resort town of Spring Lake, Michigan with a population of 2,398. We are surrounded by highly successful schools, but in 1995 formed a public charter to fulfill the need of Montessori within our community. We hold true to the tenants of Maria Montessori's time tested curriculum and have made certain that we are addressing the Common core standards as well. We build our own building in 2007 that sits in the middle of beautiful woods allowing our children to interact daily with the natural wonders around us. When parents choose to send their children to Walden Green Montessori, they are choosing a school that believes in building independence and curiosity at a very early age. We are extremely proud of the compassion our community exhibits to one another and to the world around ourselves and continually strive to improve our fine school.

4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL:

Walden Green students are taught with a fairly pure form of Montessori methodology. Our students learn through hands-on materials that address the traditional standards in learning. Rather than learning as a whole class, our students' work independently or in small groups on topics that are specific to each students needs. Our classrooms are multi-aged so that each student can work at their own pace in each given subject. You will find a link to our curriculum below:

<http://www.thecenterforcharters.org/schools/choice/our-schools/walden-green-montessori/>

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS:

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Walden Green Montessori requires 100% attendance for parent-teacher conferences. Our staff goes out of their way to accommodate parents' schedules so that we remain in compliance of this agreement each year.

2015-2016 - 135 parents/100%

2016-2017 - 202 parents/100%

The boards of directors, the administration and the staff have been strategic in our steps toward growth and improvement. We have target the need to improve our reading and math scores both locally and at the state level. We have also targeted the need to grow our enrollment and invested in our future. We have purchased current assessment tools to provide us with the necessary data to determine our next steps of growth, we have added books to our library and our classrooms to build interest and entice learning we have had deep conversations with all stakeholders as to what is working and what needs attention. We have relied on the best practices of learning from one another during our professional development sessions. In short, we have become a much stronger community of educators and contributors. We could not be more pleased with our results. We have proven that with an intense focus, we can truly alter our outcomes. We celebrate our climb to one of the top charter schools in Michigan and have no intention of pausing there. We are excited about our future!

Sincerely,



Mark Neidlinger

Principal

Walden Green Montessori

**WALDEN GREEN MONTESSORI  
A MICHIGAN PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY  
ENROLLMENT GUIDELINES  
2016-2017**

**Phase I**

Announcement of Application and Enrollment process for the academic year .

At a public meeting, the Walden Green's Board of Directors announces the enrollment process for the academic year. The announcement should include the following information:

1. The process and dates for re-enrolling pupils who are already in attendance at Walden Green (Phase II);
2. The process and dates for enrolling re-enrolled pupils' siblings at Walden Green (Phase III);
3. The process and date for holding a random selection drawing for enrolling re-enrolled pupils' siblings if there are more applicants than spaces available per grade level requested (Phase III);
4. The dates and times for the application process for new students (Phase IV);
5. Dates and process for enrolling new students at Walden Green (Phase V);
6. The names of persons responsible for administering Walden Green's application and enrollment process;
7. The grade levels offered by Walden Green; and
8. The total number of spaces available for each grade level.

**Phase II**

Re-enrolling pupils who are already in attendance at Walden Green.

- **Between March 21-March 31, 2016:** Walden Green sends a notice home with all enrolled students requesting that the parent or guardian of the enrolled student notify Walden Green **by March 31, 2016—4:00 PM** on whether the parent or guardian will re-enroll the student for the **2016-2017** academic year.

- The notice sent to the parent or guardian also requests information on whether the parent or guardian of the student plans to enroll a sibling of the student, who is not currently enrolled, for the **2016-2017** school year.
- Any enrolled student who does not re-enroll by **March 31, 2016**, can only enroll in Walden Green after **April 1, 2016** by submitting a new application. This student can only enroll, however, if there are spaces available for the grade requested for all new applicants. If there are more applicants than spaces available for the grades requested, the student can only enroll if they are selected for enrollment using a random selection drawing.
- On or after **April 1, 2016**, Walden Green determines the following: (i) the number of student who have re-enrolled per grade and (ii) the number of spaces available per grade for incoming students; and (iii) the number of student siblings requesting admission for the upcoming academic year.

### **Phase III**

Enrolling siblings of re-enrolled students for the upcoming academic year.

- If enough spaces are available for the upcoming academic year in the grade level requested, Walden Green enrolls all siblings of re-enrolled students whose parent or guardian have returned a notice to Walden Green by **April 1, 2016**, requesting that a student's sibling be enrolled for the **2016-2017** academic year.
- If there are more sibling applicants than spaces available for any particular grade level, Walden Green shall hold a random selection drawing for the spaces available. Any sibling not admitted by the random selection drawing shall be added to a waiting list for enrollment should any spaces in the particular grade level requested become available prior to the opening of the **2016-2017** academic year.

### **Phase IV**

Application period for enrolling new students for the upcoming academic year.

- Between **April 1, 2016-April 14, 2016** (the "application period"), Walden Green would provide and accept applications from parents and guardians wishing to enroll their child for the **2016-2017** academic year. **Deadline for this period is April 14, 2016 at 4:00 P.M.**

During the application period, Walden Green would provide a public notice, posted at the school building and in a newspaper of general circulation, which provided the following information:

1. Dates, times and place for obtaining and submitting applications;
2. The name and number of Walden Green's contact person for obtaining an application;
3. The application notice would not be included in the personal or classified sections of the newspaper of general circulation; and
4. An application notice will be posted during the entire application period.

- During the application period, Walden Green would provide a contact person at the Walden Green who would be responsible for providing and accepting applications.
- During the application period, Walden Green's designated person would accept and provide applications at the school building during regular business hours (i.e. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- During the application period, Walden Green's designated person would be responsible for mailing applications to any person requesting an application and answering any telephone inquiries regarding the application process.
- During the application period, Walden Green's designated person would also accept and provide application at the school building on at least one evening date (i.e. 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.).
- During the application period, Walden Green's designated person would be available on at least one weekend date for providing and accepting application (i.e. Saturday morning 11:00 a.m. to noon).
- Applications are available 24 hours a day through the website: [www.waldengreen.org](http://www.waldengreen.org)

## **Phase V**

Enrolling new students for the academic year.

- On or after **April 18, 2016**, Walden Green shall enroll new students wishing to attend the school for the **2016-2017** academic year.
- The applications shall be separated by grades.
- If there are enough spaces available for all applicants at a particular grade level, Walden Green shall enroll all such applicants. This process shall be completed for each grade level offered by Walden Green.
- If there is not enough spaces available for all applications at a particular grade level, Walden Green shall hold a random selection drawing to select students for the spaces available at that particular grade level.
- If a particular student is not selected for enrollment through the random selection drawing, the student's name shall be added to a waiting list for openings that may occur before and during the **2015-2016** academic year.
- Any applicant not accepted by the random selection drawing shall be notified by Walden Green that they were not selected and that their name has been added to a waiting list for subsequent openings that may occur before and during the **2015-2016** academic year.

## Phase VI

The Walden Green Board of Directors Open Enrollment Report.

- At a public meeting on or after **April 18, 2016**. Walden Green's designated person shall submit an open enrollment report to the Walden Green's board of directors. This report, either oral or in writing, shall provide the following information.
  1. The number of students who re-enrolled in Walden Green during Phase II;
  2. The number of enrolled students' siblings who were enrolled during Phase III;
  3. The number of new student applications for each grade level received in Walden Green during the application period set forth in Phase IV;
  4. The number of new students enrolled for each grade level offered by Walden Green during Phase V;
  5. The number of new students per grades on waiting lists, including any sibling waiting lists established under Phase III.



**Lottery Process for Walden Green Montessori**  
17339 Roosevelt Road  
Spring Lake, MI 49456  
**2016-2017**

The following process will be utilized in the conducting of the lottery.

- Step 1**      Make a list of all applications that were received by the end of the open enrollment period from the applications. Deadline for open enrollment for 2016-2017 school year is April 14, 2016 @ 4:00 P.M. Lottery date: April 18, 2016 @ 11 A.M.
- Step 2**      If there are any applications in which there is a sibling already enrolled in Walden Green, and there are openings available, that child's application doesn't need to go through the lottery process and they are granted entry. If there are more sibling applications than spots available for a classroom then a lottery will take place between the siblings.
- Step 3**      Place all names into a drawing container which can not be seen through.
- Step 4**      The lottery process begins. Spots are filled and the process continues with each grade. A waiting list is made if necessary for each grade.
- Step 5**      If there is an application for a sibling of a new entrant then the sibling of that new entrant moves into an available opening or to the top of their grade's waiting list.
- Step 6**      All applications received after the lottery for the current year will be added to the appropriate grade waiting list in the order in which they are received. The waiting list is only kept for the current school year.

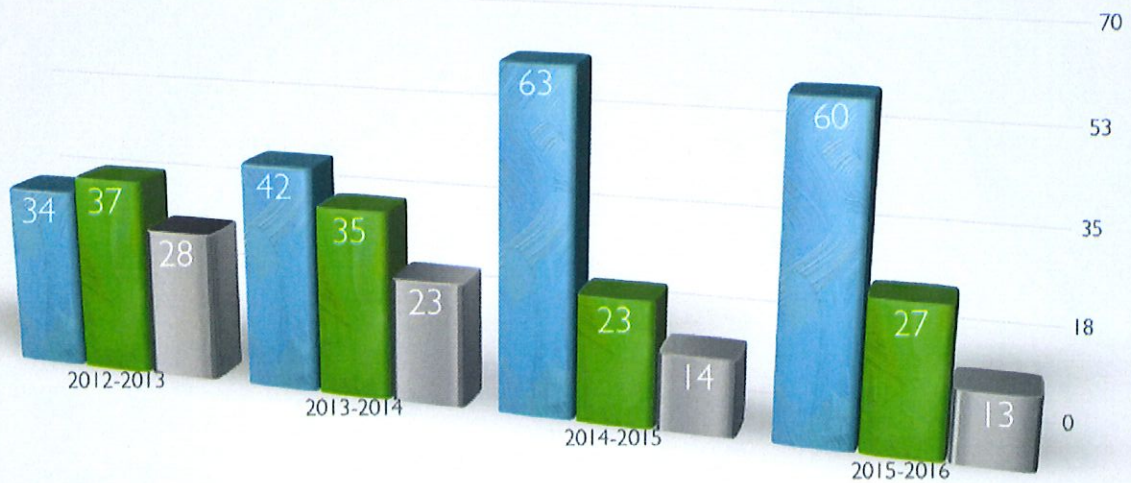
## EDPERFORMANCE READING DATA WALDEN GREEN MONTESSORI

■ HIGH/ABOVE AVERAGE (%)   ■ LOW AVERAGE (%)   ■ BELOW AVERAGE (%)



## EDPERFORMANCE MATH DATA WALDEN GREEN MONTESSORI

■ HIGH/ABOVE AVERAGE (%)   ■ LOW AVERAGE (%)   ■ BELOW AVERAGE (%)



# 2016 M-STEP MATH DATA ~ 3RD GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced



# 2016 M-STEP ELA DATA ~ 3RD GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced



# 2016 M-STEP MATH DATA ~ 4TH/5TH GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced



# 2016 M-STEP ELA DATA ~ 4TH/5TH GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced



# 2016 M-STEP MATH DATA ~ 6TH GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced



# 2016 M-STEP ELA DATA ~ 6TH GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced





# 2016 M-STEP MATH DATA ~ 7TH GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced



# 2016 M-STEP ELA DATA ~ 7TH GRADE

## Percent Proficient/Advanced

