

## SOUTH LYON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

### Named “Notably Successful” District

In the *Michigan Education Finance Study* prepared by Augenblick, Palaich, and Associates in June 2016 for the State of Michigan, South Lyon Community Schools was one of only 58 districts (out of 541) to be named a “Notably Successful” school district. In order to meet this category, the report’s highest level, a district must first reach the Above Average Academic Performance Standard; 186 districts met this standard. Additionally, a district had to reach an additional performance standard. South Lyon qualified by meeting the “High Absolute Performance Standard” which was met by only 34 districts in the state and is defined in the report as a district which, “. . . had a percentage of students scoring proficient or above that was at least one standard deviation above the statewide average in all tested subjects. For this standard, the study team continued to examine each test for each grade individually. . . . The study team then identified any district performing at or above one standard deviation above the mean on all tests for which it had tested students. **This High Absolute Performance standard identified districts that tested exceptionally high, in an absolute sense, for all students and in all subject areas.**” (emphasis added)

In a letter to SLCS Superintendent Melissa Baker dated July 6<sup>th</sup>, Brian Whiston, State Superintendent, wrote, “The achievements of your school district is a testament to the focus, hard work and commitment of your team, school board, teachers, students, parents, and community to sustain a rigorous, high-quality learning environment.” He added, ““Your district was held as the high water mark in helping determine the financial resources needed to help students be academically successful.”

Melissa Baker commented, “Although South Lyon Community Schools receives the lowest level of per pupil funding in the state, our students are able to achieve great levels of academic success due to the dedication and support shown by all our stakeholders. SLCS educators and support staff work as a team with parents and the community, always with a focus on what is best for our children. We strive continuously to fulfill the district’s mission statement of providing, ‘. . . the highest quality educational process so that all students can excel as individuals and become contributing, productive members of society.’”

Link to the full report:

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/Michigan\\_Education\\_Finance\\_Study\\_527806\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/Michigan_Education_Finance_Study_527806_7.pdf)