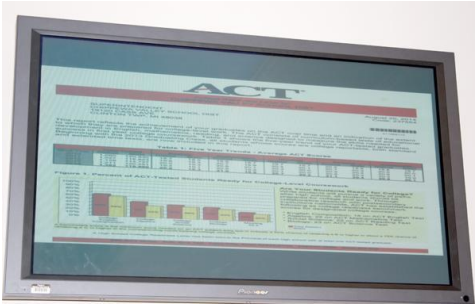


Chippewa Valley scores well on ACT

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By Nicole Tuttle, Voice Reporter



Chippewa Valley Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Ed Skiba made a presentation on ACT scores before the Chippewa Valley Board of Education on Nov. 3. Skiba said that the district is ahead of the rest of the state in all categories.

Photo by NICOLE TUTTLE

On Nov. 3 the Chippewa Valley Board of Education heard an update on district 2013-2014 ACT scores from Chippewa Valley Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education Ed Skiba.

Skiba first illustrated a chart comparing Chippewa Valley district students to students across the state. The ACT tests are in the areas of English, math, reading and science, Skiba said.

“Those are the four areas of the ACT and it shows how they compare with the rest of the state as far as being college ready,” Skiba said, “and again, college ready means that the student had either a 50 percent chance of getting a B or better in that particular area of study when they go to college, or a 75 percent chance of getting a C or better in that area of study when they go to college.”

Skiba said that students in the Chippewa Valley district were ahead of the rest of the state in every ACT category.

Skiba also illustrated how Chippewa Valley district students compared to state and national standards with a chart illustrating the Percent of Your Students Ready for College Level Coursework.

The district scored well in comparison to the state and national averages in every area except reading, according to Skiba.

“Reading is one of our, actually, our best levels,” Skiba said. “We scored very high across the board in all grade levels in reading. This is kind of surprising to me – that is the only thing that is below the national level. Everything else is either at or above including the composite score for those who met all four ACT benchmarks. Now what’s interesting to note about that, you have got to remember at the national level, in 44 out of the 50 states in the United States, only the best kids, the kids that were college-bound, take the ACT exam. ... There are only six states in the union where everybody takes the ACT, and we are one of them. So we’re comparing this nationally to everybody else that is a select group. So even though it is a select group and we are testing everybody on the ACT, this is how we are comparing to them. So I am real encouraged by that.”

On a table listing five-year trends of average ACT scores district and statewide, the composite score for 2014 in the Chippewa Valley district was 20.8 and in the state 20.1. The composite national average for 2014 was 21.0, according to the report.

“So basically you can see, so far I think we’re doing fairly well. We would like to do better. We are pretty close to our initial goals,” Skiba said.

Skiba said that the district has plans to offer high school students courses that will allow them to boost their scores higher next school year.

“Of course, we are never happy with the scores totally. Next fall we’re actually going to offer a class at both high schools that will be an ACT prep course, and we’re going to identify about 100 students who could benefit from taking five weeks in all the four core areas. We will take them through one semester that will prepare them for the ACT and shore up their basic skills,” Skiba said.

In addition to the ACT presentation, Chippewa Valley Superintendent Ron Roberts informed the board that Chippewa Valley Schools had been mentioned in a Microsoft webinar.

“For the last two years Microsoft has done webinars about their programs ... and these webinars go to all their customers. So this is really international, and they have ended those webinars but we made it into their last webinar,” Roberts said.

Roberts played the audio portion of the webinar, which was about OneNote. During the webinar, a tweet from the Chippewa Valley school district was mentioned along with an accompanying link leading to the OneNote online notebook created by the district for a conference. Roberts said that the conference was a joint workshop with the L’Anse Creuse Public Schools district.

“He used Chippewa Valley Schools as an example of using OneNote because when they did the Focus on SMART Teaching conference in September, everything was done using the program OneNote. So the teachers that arrived for that conference, they did not receive packets. It was all on their phones or their iPads,” Roberts said.

Roberts also said that the Chippewa Valley Coalition for Youth and Families was named the outstanding prevention organization of the year in the state by the Michigan Prevention Association.

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