

# EJHS added to state's lowest-performing list

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ROSEVILLE — In addition to Roseville Middle School, Eastland Junior High is now part of Michigan's official 92 lowest-achieving schools list, released Aug. 16 by the Department of Education.

According to the MDE, the schools were identified using a federal formula to consider student proficiency levels, academic improvement rates, Adequate Yearly Progress and graduation rates.

However, both middle schools not only received a B grade on the Michigan EducationYES! Report Cards that were released recently, but both achieved AYP for 2009-2010.

Roseville Community Schools administrators have argued that the formula and the list are nothing short of attempts to earn districts additional funds from the federal government.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum Mike LaFave and Director of Curriculum Mark Blaszkowski could not be reached for comment at press time.

Roseville Middle School first appeared on the state's list of 108 Persistently Low-Achieving Schools in early June — thereby making it eligible to apply for up to \$2 million each year over a three-year period, but only if it chooses one of four "school turnaround models" designated by the U.S. Department of Education. At that time, administrators argued that the scores were not accurate, as the only data point used was the scores of eighth-

graders in 2008-2009. Although eighth-grade math scores did drop from 2007 to 2008, the scores were still well above state AYP targets.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan said in a statement that the schools on the list are "in distress."

"Students in these schools are not receiving the education they need and deserve. That has to change, and we will work together to bring about that change," he said.

Districts on the list must submit a "redesign plan" to the MDE by Nov. 16, using one of four improvement models required by the U.S. Department of Education. Those who do not comply would be placed in a statewide School Reform District.

The four models are "turnaround," which would replace the principal and 50 percent of school staff; "closure," in which they would close a failing school and enroll those students in other high-achieving buildings in the district; "restart," in which they would close the school and reopen it under the management of a charter school operator; and "transformation," wherein they attempt to develop teacher leader effectiveness, replace the principal, implement reform strategies and extend learning and teacher planning time.

Other Macomb County schools on the list include Warren Fitzgerald High School, Mount Clemens High School, New Haven High School and Conner Creek Academy East.