



March 4, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

The State of Michigan recently mandated that certain schools be assigned letter grades. These grades are based largely on standardized test scores. Center-based special education programs, such as the Tarrant Center, were *not* supposed to be assigned grades because the students in these buildings do not take regular standardized tests. A very few students in these buildings will take an alternative assessment, but “student growth” in these buildings is not measured based on a test score.

Unfortunately, due to a clerical error, Lyle Tarrant will receive a letter grade this year. That grade will most likely be poor, due to its dependency on assessments not appropriate for our students to take. Administration has contacted MDE about this error and were told that due to the timing of the release of this new system, Lyle Tarrant cannot be exempted this year. However, Lyle Tarrant has been reclassified for future reporting and will not receive a letter grade after this year.

This is extremely disappointing because the grade assigned will in no way be an indicator of the amazing work done each day by our students and staff at the Tarrant Center. Please know that we are proud of our students and the work of our staff and we will continue to dedicate our time and resources to continual growth and development of the students we serve.

Sincerely,

Kevin Oxley
JCISD Superintendent