



School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 15, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for Harper Creek Middle School. 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. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact building principal, Kim Thayer at 269-441-4755 or ThayerK@harpercreek.net for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [Harper Creek Middle School Annual Education Report](#) or you may review a copy in the main office at your child’s school.

For the 2023-24 school year, schools were identified based on previous years’ performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2022-23. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2022-23. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school was identified as HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ONE OF THESE LABELS.

A challenge for Harper Creek Middle School that is evident in the Annual Education Report (AER) is a below average proficiency performance for students classified as having a disability and students that are Student is an English Language Learners as reported on NAEP 8th grade reading and math.

Students are assigned to schools in one of two ways. The first is by the student's geographic attendance area. We also participate in a Section 105 School of Choice program and assign students to the school they choose, based on availability.

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Battle Creek, MI 49014
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F: 269-441-2206

Middle School
7290 B Drive North
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-4750
F: 269-979-4613

Beadle Lake Elementary
8175 C Drive North
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-3250
F: 269-962-4748

Sonoma Elementary
4640 B Drive South
Battle Creek, MI 49015
T: 269-441-7800
F: 269-979-6246

Wattles Park Elementary
132 South Wattles Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014
T: 269-441-5850
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Harper Creek Middle School’s School Improvement Plan is a continuous work in progress. The plan addresses goal areas related to reading and writing, as well as math, science and social studies. Each goal area and its strategies align to the district’s goals and state guidelines. The plan is revisited and revised on a yearly basis.

Harper Creek Middle School staff is continuing to revise and implement an aligned, guaranteed and viable curriculum based on learning targets within district identified power standards that come directly from state standards.

In addition, curriculum scope and sequence is used by teachers to determine content and lessons. For copies of core curriculum, please contact Kim Thayer or refer to the Curriculum resources on the district webpage.

Student achievement on nationally normed achievement tests shows student growth through each grade level and each school year. The average reading growth percentile for Fall 2022 was 48.6% and 43.8% for Fall 2023. In math, the average growth percentile for Fall 2022 was 47% and 51% for Fall 2023. The average growth percentile for science in Fall 2022 was 47% and 50% in Fall 2023.

Harper Creek Middle School has had positive parent-teacher conference attendance during the fall with attendance at 83%. In the spring, the average attendance declined with 74% of families attending conferences. As a part of our school improvement process, Harper Creek Middle School Staff continues to develop strategies to address this issue, which have included phone conferences, email communications, and flexible conference times with parents.

Teachers, administrators, and support staff are continuing the training process to look at this data to find trends and to implement intervention strategies for students that do not show average to above average growth. We are using local assessments to determine growth.

The staff at Harper Creek Middle School consistently works to improve our practices and to implement strategies that will help our students grow emotionally, socially, and academically.

As we plan for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year and the upcoming 2024-2025 school year, the staff at Harper Creek Middle School will work together to

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determine best practice schedules, targeted strategies and resources to remediate students that have fallen behind due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are committed to continuous improvement and do our best to provide opportunities to work in collaboration with our community, parents, and students.

Sincerely,

Kim Thayer
Principal
Harper Creek Middle School

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