



Kentwood Public Schools

5820 Eastern Avenue, S.E.
Kentwood, MI 49508-6200
Phone 616-455-4400
Fax 616-455-4476

February 14, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-2024 educational progress for Explorer Elementary. 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 Principal Jason Bannister for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the link [here](#). You may also search for our school's AER at [MI School Data](#) or review a copy in the main office at your student'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 2021-22. 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 has not been given one of these labels.

Explorer Elementary School is focusing on increasing our achievement through differentiation of instruction to meet the needs of all students along with focusing on delivering instruction using the Gradual Release Instructional Model. We will continue to strive to increase achievement and close the achievement gaps in all academic areas by providing strong classroom instruction and supporting students with scientifically supported interventions.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Students in Kentwood Public School District are assigned to individual school buildings based on the grade level they attend and the geographic area in which they live. School boundaries were developed with community involvement and can be viewed at the Kentwood Public Schools Administration Building at 5820 Eastern Ave. S.E.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Explorer Elementary has an approved School Improvement Plan submitted to the State in which stakeholders have outlined goals and objectives that address student academic needs. Looking at a variety of data that measure student academic progress, we identified areas for improvement and research-based strategies to address these needs.

CORE CURRICULUM

Process:

Kentwood Public Schools has aligned curriculum in all content areas with the Michigan Curriculum Framework and the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Benchmarks can be found on the Michigan Department of Education website: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>

Our assessments and report cards are also aligned with the curriculum. Classroom instruction is congruent with the curriculum expectations and is monitored constantly by building principals and academic support personnel.

Alignment:

Each grade level on the elementary level and each content area at the secondary levels meet regularly to study curriculum issues and to ensure that all students have common, equitable curricular experiences. A gap analysis is conducted annually with the M-STEP testing information and the curriculum is examined for areas of strength and weakness. After this audit, necessary adjustments are made.

Equity:

"Excellence and Equity for All" is the motto of Kentwood Public Schools. Common assessments with common scoring rubrics, a common curriculum, common core materials, and a common standards-based report card help us work toward our goal of equity. In addition, principals and other evaluators have common instructional expectations that are used to guide teacher evaluation. Professional development, study groups, and constant communication between regular education, special education, and gifted programs also facilitate this process. We are committed to ALL of our students having multiple opportunities to learn and be successful in the core curriculum.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Year	Grade	ELA	Math	Science	Social Studies
2022-23	3	70%	60%	n/a	n/a
	4	63%	58%	n/a	n/a
	5	59%	41%	49%	36%
2023-24	3	51%	47.4%	n/a	n/a
	4	72%	63.4%	51.4%	n/a
	5	62.9%	45.7%	60%	n/a

Parent-Teacher Conference Attendance

School Year	Fall Number of Parents Attended	Fall Percentage of Parents Attended	Spring Number of Parents Attended	Spring Percentage of Parents Attended
2022-2023	404	95%	434	97%
2023-2024	467	94%	143	25%

Explorer Elementary School continues to make positive gains with the support of a competent staff, highly involved parents, and community members. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Explorer Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Jason Bannister
Principal, Explorer Elementary
Kentwood Public Schools