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## Donley Elementary Annual Education Report 2025-26 (AER)

February 18, 2026

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2024-25 educational progress at Donley Elementary School. The AER addresses the complex reporting requirements of 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 Tracey Barton for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: <https://bit.ly/3MsJuKh>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2025-26 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance, using definitions and labels required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2024-25. 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 2024-25. 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 2024-25. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given. Donley Elementary was identified as a school without a label.

At Donley Elementary School, our primary focus is fostering academic excellence. As a school and district, we are dedicated to meeting each student where they are, addressing learning gaps that may have arisen over the past two school years, and providing targeted support to ensure their success. Our educators continually refine instructional practices, monitor student progress, and adapt teaching strategies to create a responsive and effective learning environment

### **Description of School**

Donley Elementary currently serves 26 students across kindergarten through fifth grade, with two sections per grade level. Our dedicated staff remains committed to meeting the diverse needs of all students. We analyze school-wide data at least three times per year (fall, winter, and spring) to assess progress, refine instructional delivery, and narrow the achievement gap between students performing at benchmark levels and those requiring additional support.

As part of East Lansing Public Schools, we collaborate with our K-5 counterparts to ensure a high-quality educational experience for all students. Our upper-grade teachers use team-teaching strategies to ease the transition from early elementary (K-3) self-contained classrooms to the six-period structure of middle school.

To foster a safe and supportive learning environment, we implement comprehensive programs focused on academic and social-emotional growth. This includes:

- **Second Step Curriculum** – A research-based program designed to promote social-emotional learning.
- **Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS)** – A school-wide framework for fostering positive behaviors.
- **Bucket Filler Program** – A reward system that reinforces kindness, responsibility, and community values.

Our instructional staff collaborates to review student data, develop action plans, and refine curriculum to align with best practices. Through updated curriculum, evidence-based teaching strategies, and integrated technology, we cultivate an environment where all students can reach their full potential and exceed the high academic standards set by East Lansing Public Schools.

This ongoing work is a collective effort of students, teachers, support staff, and administration. At Donley Elementary, we firmly believe that student success is maximized when families and schools work in partnership. We are committed to providing a rich, engaging, and supportive educational experience for every child.

### **Parent Teacher Conferences**

For the 2024-25 school year 91.8% of families attended parent conferences. In 2023-24, 93.7 % of families attended.

We would also like to report on some additional information that may be of interest to parent and community members.

### **Mission Statement**

Nurturing each child.  
Educating all students.  
Building world citizens.

### **Vision Statement**

East Lansing Public Schools provide an exemplary education for all students through a cohesive, comprehensive curriculum in an inclusive, supportive environment.

### **Status of the 3-5 Year District School Improvement Plan**

East Lansing Public Schools has submitted a District Improvement Plan through the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP). This plan is focused on the whole child by developing school environments that are healthy, safe, engaged, supported and challenged. Our plan, in conjunction with our school community improves learning and improves health while coordinating policy, processes and practices that meet the needs of our students, educators and families. The district goals articulated in this plan are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, time bound,

inclusive and equitable. Each of our schools engage and share in the responsibility to make our goals a reality for all who are a part of our education community.

### **Core Curriculum Access**

East Lansing Public Schools' core curriculum may be accessed on the state website as follows:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753---,00.html>

Additional hard copy publications are available from the office of the Assistant Superintendent and at the building level. There are no variances from the state's model.

### **Description of Implementation**

The implementation of the core curriculum is sustained through a curriculum structure that employs grade level and department chairpersons who meet monthly. The District and School Leaders review state requirements for core curriculum, plans curriculum development, coherence and articulation, provides for the identification of necessary professional development and budget-related requirements to support the implementation of the curriculum. The District and School Leaders meet with grade level and or department level colleagues and with administration to implement and monitor the effectiveness of curriculum development, implementation and impact on student performance.

### **Process for Assigning Pupils to the School District**

K-5 students are assigned to schools based on where they reside in our district. Each K-5 school has specific boundaries within our district. Parents are allowed the opportunity to complete a permeable boundary request that would allow their child to attend a school within the school district other than their neighborhood school. Requests require the approval of the sending and receiving school Principals as well as the Superintendent and are based on space availability at the school/grade.

East Lansing Public Schools also participates in the state's Schools of Choice process annually. Available openings are advertised. Applications are accepted during a specific application period, and students are accepted on a lottery system to fill the advertised slots.

### **Core Beliefs**

#### **We Believe:**

- Students' needs and interests are core to all decisions and actions.
- We must inspire a passion for lifelong learning.

- High expectations in teaching and learning result in personal and academic excellence.
- Diversity is affirmed by integrating the uniqueness of every child in to our learning community.
- In providing equitable access to opportunities and resources for students.
- In engaging the entire community to create trusting, safe, welcoming learning environments.
- In building world citizens.

Our Board of Education and administrative team collaboratively developed district goals and objectives aligned with the district's mission statement for the 2024-25 school year. They are as follows:

### **Nurturing Each Child**

Goal #1: Implement and integrate a comprehensive program of social-emotional/learning (SEL) that integrates specific behavior supports for all students.

Goal #2: Align school safety procedures and training district-wide.

Goal #3: Deepen learning around trauma-informed classrooms to strengthen school climate, relationships, and belonging.

### **Educating All Students**

Goal #1: All educators will engage and connect with all students, using evidence-based practices to create meaningful learning.

Goal #2: Refine systems of support for all learners to be able to access and engage in on-level learning and beyond.

### **Building World Citizens**

Goal #1: Embed the use of the EJATT tool within school frameworks to overall enhance each student's experience in the areas of: belonging, safety, and success.

Goal #2: Elevate and center student voice and lived experiences to drive meaningful changes in school practices and procedures.



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At Donley Elementary, we are committed to providing enriching academic experiences that align with our Mission Statement and School Improvement Plan. We believe that student success is best achieved through a strong partnership between home, school, and the community. We deeply value and encourage parent involvement and are grateful for our volunteers' dedication.

Our commitment extends beyond academics. We strive to foster a safe, inclusive, and diverse learning environment that nurtures the whole child. Through effective teaching practices and a focus on continuous improvement, we remain dedicated to increasing students' achievement while supporting their social, emotional, and academic growth.

Sincerely,

Tracey Barton

Principal  
Donley Elementary School