



East Lansing  
Public Schools

Dori Leyko, Superintendent \*Dori.leyko@elps.us  
501 Burcham Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823 \* 517-333-7424

## **Whitehills Elementary School Annual Education Report (AER) 2023-2024**

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Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2022-23 educational progress for Whitehills Elementary 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 Molly Williams for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: [https://www.mischooldata.org/annual-education-report-1?Common\\_Locations=1-S,12167,1104,85](https://www.mischooldata.org/annual-education-report-1?Common_Locations=1-S,12167,1104,85), 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 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. Whitehills Elementary was identified as a school that no label was given.

As a school we are striving for academic excellence. As a school and a district, we are working to meet all the students where they are and fill in any gaps that may have occurred during the last two school years. We are continually working to improve and support our students in their growth and monitor that growth and adjust our instruction accordingly.

Our primary goal is achieving academic excellence. We are actively working at both the school and district levels to understand each student's current academic standing and fill in any gaps that might have emerged. We continuously improve our teaching methods to better support students in their academic journey. By closely monitoring their progress, we adapt our instruction to be more responsive and effective.

## **A Brief Description of School**

There are currently 278 students enrolled at Whitehills Elementary School. We have two sections of each grade, kindergarten through 5th grade. The Whitehills Elementary School staff continues to address the needs of all students. We examine our school-wide data minimally three times per year (fall, winter and spring). We continue to improve upon the delivery of instruction and work toward narrowing the academic disparity between the percentage of students at benchmark and our lowest achieving students. For the 2022-2023 school year, the percentage of Whitehills students scoring Advanced or Proficient was higher than the state average in both math and ELA for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade.

We work in concert with other K-5 East Lansing Public Schools to provide a quality education for all students. Upper grade level teachers utilize team teaching to facilitate the transition of students from the predominantly self-contained classrooms in early elementary (K-3) to the six-period school day of the middle school. We continue to develop and employ educational programming that encompasses bullying behavior prevention and intervention. We have implemented the Second Step curriculum, Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), and reward systems (Bucket Filler program), and our instructional staff works collaboratively reviewing student data, creating action steps, and adjusting instructional strategies to address student needs and revise curriculum. By using an updated curriculum, well-researched teaching techniques, and current technology we create a learning environment where all children can realize their potential and meet or exceed the high standards that are characteristic of East Lansing Public Schools.

This information reflects the collective work of students, administration, support staff and teachers. Whitehills Elementary staff is committed to providing all students with rich academic experiences. We believe the greatest opportunity students have for success is when collaboration between families and school is fully realized.

## **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. These educators review state requirements for the core curriculum, plan curriculum development, ensure coherence and articulation, and provide for the identification of necessary professional development and budget-related requirements to support the implementation of the curriculum. Department and grade level chairpersons 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.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

Parent teacher conferences were held in person and virtually in the 2022-2023 school year with ninety-five percent of parents attending. Ninety-four percent of students were represented by parents/guardians at the fall 2023 conferences.

At our school, we are dedicated to providing enriching academic experiences in alignment with our Mission Statement and School Improvement Plan. We firmly believe in the collaborative efforts of home, school, and community for student success. Actively endorsing parent participation, we express gratitude to our devoted volunteers. Our commitment extends to increasing achievement for all students while embracing effective teaching and maintaining a safe, diverse environment that nurtures the whole child.

Sincerely,

*Molly Williams*

Molly Williams  
Principal, Whitehills Elementary School