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Whitehills Elementary Annual Education Report 2025-26 (AER)

February 18, 2026,

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2024-25 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 accountability, student assessment, 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://bit.ly/4kDLr2Y>, 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 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 group in 2024-25. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had at least one student group 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, had a graduation rate at or below 67%, failed to exit CSI status in 2024-25, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given. Our school was identified as one that "has not been given one of these labels".

As a school, our foremost objective is to achieve academic excellence. At both the school and district levels, we are dedicated to meeting students at their current levels of academic proficiency while addressing any learning gaps that may have arisen in recent years. Through a commitment to continuous improvement, we employ evidence-based strategies to support student growth. By systematically monitoring progress and outcomes, we adapt our instructional approaches to ensure responsiveness and effectiveness in fostering student achievement.

Description of School

Whitehills Elementary School currently serves 285 students, with two sections per grade level from kindergarten through fifth grade. The staff remains steadfast in addressing the diverse needs of all students by analyzing school-wide data at least three times annually (fall, winter, and spring). Our efforts are focused on enhancing instructional delivery and closing the academic achievement gap between students performing at benchmark levels and those identified as lower-achieving. For the 2024-2025 school year, the percentage of Whitehills students achieving Advanced or Proficient levels in mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA) surpassed the state average for grades 3-5.

As a school we are striving for academic excellence. The state of Michigan has all students in third, fourth, and fifth grade take the M-Step in reading and mathematics. In the spring of 2025, students took the M-Step. About 63 percent of students at Whitehills were proficient or advanced in all subjects on the M-Step. About 67% of third, fourth and fifth grade students were proficient or advanced in ELA and 60% in mathematics. We are continually working to improve and support our students in their growth.

Whitehills Elementary collaborates with other K-5 schools within the East Lansing Public Schools district to provide a high-quality education for all learners. Upper-grade teachers employ team-teaching strategies to facilitate the transition from self-contained classrooms in the early grades (K-3) to the more structured, six-period schedule of middle school. Our educational programming also prioritizes bullying prevention and intervention, incorporating initiatives such as the Second Step curriculum, Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), and the Bucket Filler reward program. Instructional staff engage in ongoing collaboration to review student data, develop targeted action plans, adjust teaching strategies, and refine the curriculum.

By leveraging an updated curriculum, evidence-based instructional practices, and advanced technology, Whitehills Elementary fosters a learning environment where every child can achieve their fullest potential and meet or exceed the high standards of East Lansing Public Schools. This collective effort reflects the dedication of students, administrators, support staff, and teachers.

At Whitehills, we are committed to providing all students with enriched academic experiences. We firmly believe that the greatest opportunity for student success lies in a robust partnership between families and the school, ensuring a united approach to supporting student growth and achievement.

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent teacher conferences were held in person and virtually in the 2024-2025 school year with ninety-nine percent of parents/guardians attending ninety-five percent of students were represented by parents/guardians at fall conferences for the 2025- 2026 school year.

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.



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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.

At our school, we are committed to delivering enriching academic experiences that align with our Mission Statement and School Improvement Plan. We recognize that student success is rooted in the collaborative partnership among families, the school, and the broader community. We actively encourage and value parental involvement, extending our gratitude to the dedicated volunteers who support our endeavors. Our mission is centered on fostering academic excellence for all students through effective teaching practices within a safe, inclusive, and diverse environment that holistically supports their growth and development.

Sincerely,

Molly Williams
Principal
Whitehills Elementary School