

**School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

January 31, 2024

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 Mary A. White 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 Instructional Services Director, Mary Jane Evink at (616) 850-5075 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website - [MI School Data](#), 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.

**Our school has not been given one of these labels.**

At Mary A. White Elementary School, our focus for the 2023-24 academic year has been on integrating the Responsive Classroom approach across all classrooms. This strategy ensures a predictable and responsive environment tailored to meet each student's unique needs, based on current data. Our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) play a crucial role in this process, particularly in strengthening Tier I ELA and Math instruction for all students.

We leverage a tiered workshop model in reading, writing, and math, utilizing consistent curricula across grade levels. Our efforts are supported by diverse professional development initiatives, including district learning sessions, staff meetings, grade level data meetings, "Mega Labs" led by our instructional coach, and other impactful cycles. The availability of our instructional coach for both teachers and students further enriches this process.

In addition to our focus on targeted curriculum for students and their needs, the Responsive Classroom approach is pivotal in our school. This student-centered method emphasizes social and emotional learning, fostering safe, joyful, and engaging environments for students and teachers alike.

Throughout these initiatives, the Mary A. White Elementary staff has demonstrated remarkable adaptability and commitment, ensuring that every student experiences a welcoming, safe, and successful learning environment while achieving at high levels.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

### **Pupil Assignment**

Mary A. White Elementary’s students are assigned to our building by geographic boundaries as well as school of choice requests.

### **3-5 Year School Improvement**

At Mary A. White Elementary School, we envision a vibrant and dynamic learning community where every member actively engages in building strong, meaningful relationships. Our goal is to foster an environment where a sense of belonging and connection is not just encouraged but deeply ingrained in our culture. We believe in the power of collaboration, underpinned by open and honest communication, recognizing that the best ideas and solutions come from working together. Our commitment to growth is evident in our focus on professional learning, ensuring that our educators are equipped with the latest knowledge and techniques to provide the highest quality education.

At Mary A. White Elementary, these attributes are not just ideals, but the pillars upon which our school stands, guiding us in nurturing well-rounded, confident, and happy learners.

### **Core Curriculum**

Grand Haven Area Public Schools has joined the state of Michigan in adopting Michigan's State Standards which include the Common Core State Standards. Students are afforded a rigorous, guaranteed and viable curriculum. For a copy of the core curriculum, its implementation, and how it may vary from state curriculum, contact the Office of Instructional Services at (616) 850-5075.

### **Student Achievement**

Students in grades 3–4 take the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics.

School Year	ELA Proficiency	Math Proficiency
2022-23	61%	56%
2021-22	64%	46%
2020-21	63%	52%
2019-20	n/a	n/a
2018-19	63%	66%

*2019-20 results are not available due to statewide school closures during the COVID pandemic.*

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Continuing to address the needs of our families, we've provided options for both in-person and virtual connections. Our school engaged with 99% of families to share current information, celebrate achievements, and collaborate on future strategies. Our dedication lies in fostering an inclusive learning space where every student and family flourishes, maintaining transparent communication with parents and guardians to track their students' progress throughout the academic year.

The team at Mary A. White Elementary remains dedicated to refining and applying top methods that empower every student's success. We hold a pivotal position in nurturing the youngest minds at Grand Haven Area Public Schools, taking immense pride in our commitment to creating a welcoming, secure, nurturing environment where each student feels valued, safe, and cherished throughout their time in our care.

Sincerely,

*Rachel Poel*

Rachel Poel, Principal  
Mary A. White Elementary