

## School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 2, 2026

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on Lake Hills Elementary's 2024-25 educational progress. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information on student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact the 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 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 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 label is given.

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

Teachers use formative and summative assessment data across all subject areas throughout the year to drive classroom instruction. Teachers, specialists, interventionists, and our principal meet in Professional Learning Communities every six weeks to work collaboratively and share the responsibility for every child's growth and success. Together, we analyze relevant student data, noting strengths and areas for growth. We set student growth goals based on noted strengths and discuss and select learning strategies to help students reach them. We have designed systems and supports for all our learners, whether they are ready for additional challenges to further their success or need more support to move forward.

In collaboration, our teachers meet weekly to analyze student performance data on state, school, and classroom assessments. Two key focus areas have been in Math and Literacy. As a result of their data-driven discussions, strategies were developed and implemented to both close achievement gaps and accelerate student learning.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

### **Pupil Assignment**

Lake Hills students are assigned to our building based on geographic boundaries and school choice requests.

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

- **All students will meet grade-level benchmarks or make one year's growth in literacy.** Teachers will meet in collaborative teams using data to form intervention groups and determine differentiated instruction. Teachers will use timely and appropriate interventions with students who need additional support. Our Literacy Coach will work with teachers on specific objectives and/or coaching cycles to help support tier-one instruction.
- **All students will meet grade-level benchmarks or make one year's growth in writing.** Lake Hills' scores will exceed county averages. The Writer's Workshop model will be used to implement effective

strategies for narrative, informational, and opinion/argument writing. Teachers will confer with students in small groups and provide additional time for strategy when needed.

- **All students will meet grade-level benchmarks or make one year's growth in mathematics.** Teachers will use an aligned scope and sequence to use the Common Core Math curriculum with fidelity. Timely interventions will be used for students who do not show achievement in math concepts and processes.

### **Core Curriculum**

Grand Haven Area Public Schools has joined the state of Michigan in adopting its State Standards, including 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 the state curriculum, contact the Office of Instructional Services at (616) 850-5075.

### **Student Achievement**

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

School Year	ELA Proficiency	Math Proficiency
2024-25	56%	51%
2023-24	66%	65%
2022-23	70%	68%
2021-22	77%	62%
2020-21	73%	53%

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Our school program is effective because of the consistent support from our parents. In the 2024-2025 school year, parents met with teachers in person and virtually. Of our 275 students, 98% families attended in the Fall, and 93% of families attended parent-teacher conferences in the spring.

In the 2023-2024 school year, parents met with teachers in person and virtually. Of our 297 students, 98% of students had an attendance rate of 100% in the Fall, and 95% of families attended parent-teacher conferences in the spring. In the 2022-2023 school year, parents met with teachers in person and virtually. Of our 298 students, the fall attendance rate was 99%, and 97% of families attended in the spring.

In closing, we are a staff with a Whatever It Takes mindset! We promote a growth mindset and leadership amongst our student body. Our school motto is Lions Lead the Way! We continue to emphasize developing our pedagogy around serving students in trauma and academic intervention. We have found that the best way to support students in trauma, those below the benchmark, and those exceeding the benchmark, is by creating strong relationships with students and families.

The Lake Hills community has displayed students' and teachers' persistence, resilience, and adaptability in the face of unprecedented challenges over the past few years. Despite the widespread disruption of traditional learning models, our students and staff have risen to the occasion and embraced new opportunities for our students' success. The past few years have also shown the importance of teachers and their role in students' lives, as well as of accessible, equitable education for all.

In 2024, our school was awarded the distinction of a National Blue Ribbon, a testament to the incredible dedication of our staff, the hard work of our students, and the unwavering support of our families. This prestigious recognition celebrates the exceptional efforts of our entire community to provide an outstanding educational experience for every child.

Sincerely,

**IAN OVERWAY**

Ian Overway, Principal  
Lake Hills Elementary School