

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

January 31, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2023-24 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 2024-25 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 2023-24. 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 2022-23. 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 2022-23. 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.**

During the 2023-24 school year, Mary A. White Elementary prioritized the implementation of the Responsive Classroom approach across all grade levels. This student-centered method emphasizes social-emotional learning, creating a safe, joyful, and engaging learning environment for both students and teachers.

To support this approach, we've focused on strengthening Tier I instruction in ELA and Math for all students. This includes utilizing a tiered workshop model across grade levels and leveraging Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to deepen our use of real-time student data.

Our commitment to continuous improvement is evident in our diverse professional development offerings, including district learning sessions, staff meetings, grade-level data meetings, "Mega Labs" led by our instructional coach, and other impactful learning cycles. Our instructional coach provides valuable support to both teachers and students throughout this process.

The Mary A. White staff has demonstrated remarkable adaptability and commitment to 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 and school-of-choice requests.

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

At Mary A. White Elementary School, we strive to create a dynamic learning community where every member actively engages in building strong, meaningful relationships. We foster an environment where a sense of belonging and connection is deeply ingrained in our culture. Collaboration is key, with honest communication, recognizing that the best ideas and solutions emerge from working together. Our School Improvement Team, comprised of representatives from every grade level, staff with diverse expertise, and valued parent partners, plays a crucial role in guiding the next steps for our school. This team ensures that our school's direction aligns with the needs of our students and reflects the input of our entire school community. We are committed to continuous professional growth for our educators, ensuring they possess the latest knowledge and techniques to provide the highest quality education.

At Mary A. White, our foundational principles guide us in nurturing well-rounded, confident, and happy learners – individuals who will become responsible, empathetic, and productive members of our community.

### **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
2023-24	49%	39%
2022-23	61%	56%
2021-22	64%	46%
2020-21	63%	52%

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences**

To ensure student success, we prioritize strong partnerships with families. We offer flexible communication options, including both in-person and virtual meetings, to best suit the needs of our diverse community. This year, we engaged with 97% of families to share important updates, celebrate student achievements, and plan for future learning. Our commitment lies in creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment where every student thrives. We maintain open and transparent communication with parents and guardians throughout the year to track student progress and work together to achieve academic goals.

At Mary A. White Elementary, we're passionate about finding the best ways to help every single student thrive. We take immense pride in creating a warm and safe space where all students feel valued and loved. We're committed to nurturing young minds and ensuring every child feels supported and successful on their learning journey.

Sincerely,

*Rachel Poel*

Rachel Poel, Principal  
Mary A. White Elementary