

Athens Area Schools

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Kipp Beaudoin, Superintendent

www.athensk12.org

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 8, 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 Athens Jr./Sr. High 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 Walter Dubbeld for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website www.athensk12.org, 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 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%, 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 was identified as having not been given one of these labels.

We take great pride in the education we provide our students. Our State required standardized test scores are very good and are consistently better than neighboring districts with similar demographics. Even though we have good test scores, we are always researching for ways to improve the education of our students. We are excited about curricular changes that have been implemented to our math and ELA programs. We are constantly evaluating curriculum and data to make the appropriate changes. We extend learning opportunities beyond our building by participating in the Battle Creek Math and Science Center, the Calhoun Area Careers Center, online learning classes, and our students really take advantage of dual enrollment options at our local community college. We have developed a

partnership with the Calhoun County Public Health Department and Substance Abuse to educate our students on the dangers of substance abuse and other harmful things that can lead to abuse or addiction. We are recognized also for our caring staff and family atmosphere. For a school of our size, we offer a broad range of extracurricular activities including many different sports, band, and nationally recognized activities such as Youth in Government and Science Olympiad, Students against Destructive Decisions etc. We strive to offer experiences for students to experience things beyond our community and grow as people. We focus on community service opportunities for students to give back to the community as well as the school community.

State law requires that we also report additional information. <TO HAVE THIS LETTER MEET THE STATE REQUIREMENTS, EACH SCHOOL SHOULD PROVIDE A REPORT FOR THE **TWO MOST RECENT YEARS** ON THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL
2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN
3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL
4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL
5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS
6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES
7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)
 - b. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)
 - c. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)
 - d. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT>

Athens Area Schools understands that our strength is our people and the unifying mission of educating the students that attend our school district. Our students achieve at a very high level given the socio-economic factors we face. They do this, not because we teach to the test, but because we educate based on what students need to be successful in life. Our role is to be part of the extended family helping raise young people to be ready to go forth into the world and prosper. It is the people that make the district, and this is a district of really great people.

Sincerely,

Mr. John Thompson

Athens Jr./Sr. High School

Annual Report

2023-2024

Athens Area Schools

Pride in Excellence

The Jr./Sr. High School had an enrollment of around 250 students, grades sixth (6th) through twelfth (12th).

We offer a comprehensive program of academic study, fine arts, interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities. We have maintained the distinction of being accredited at the high school through the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools since 1999. We continue to create more opportunities for academic excellence through our strong relationships with the Battle Creek Math and Science Center, the Calhoun Area Career Center, the Kellogg Community College, and the Michigan Virtual High School. We invite you to read further and learn more about this "little pocket of excellence south of Battle Creek".

Vision Statement

The Athens Area Schools are committed to providing a quality education for all students within a respectful, caring environment. Our schools strive to be a family-friendly place where people want to send their children to learn and where students are excited and motivated to achieve excellence. We are dedicated to helping young people become independent, well-rounded, contributing members of society. It is our hope and passion to see that our students are prepared for the world, have the tools and skills necessary to succeed in life, and are challenged in becoming confident leaders for tomorrow.

Core Mission

The Athens Area Schools are dedicated to helping all students achieve their full academic and human potential.

Strategic Goals

- Our students will meet, or exceed, proficiency standards as measured by the state's standardized assessment in the core content areas of science, social studies, English/language arts, and mathematics.
- Our students will successfully complete their secondary education.
- Our students will progress to postsecondary education and/or training after graduating from the Athens Area Schools.

Guiding Principles

- We always act in the best interest of those we serve.
- No one has the right to harm others.
- Everyone has a responsibility to help.

State Required Information

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Since Athens Area Schools has only one elementary and one Jr./Sr. high school, students are assigned according to their grade level. Kindergarten through fifth grade attend East Leroy Elementary while sixth through twelfth grade attend Athens Jr./Sr. High School.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We are in the third year of our 5 year District/School Improvement Plan. We are pleased with our progress in achieving the goals of the previous plan. We have five goals addressing English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and student behavior.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Athens Area Schools do not have any specialized schools in the district. We have one elementary and one junior/senior high school.

4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

Our Curriculum is based on the Michigan State Standards adopted by the State of Michigan. These standards can be accessed by going to our website at www.athensk12.org and clicking on the page heading "Academics". There are no variations from the state model, and staff is held accountable for teaching this board approved curriculum. The teaching of this curriculum is ensured through classroom observation, assessment results and teacher evaluation.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

The results of student assessment are included in the attached data document.

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Last year, 48.41% of our parents attended parent/teacher conferences. This year, 11% of our parents attended conferences.

7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

a. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)

During the 2023-24 school year, 29 students took dual enrollment classes. This represented 25% of eligible students. 25 of these students received college credit. During the 2022-23 school year, 26 students took dual enrollment classes. This represented 30.5% of eligible students. 12 of these students took 2 or more classes.

b. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)

We currently do not offer any AP classes because of the ease of taking these dual enrollment college classes.

c. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)

We currently do not offer any AP classes because of the ease of taking these dual enrollment college classes.

d. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT

During the 2023-24 school year, 29 students took dual enrollment classes. This represented 25% of eligible students. 25 of these students received college credit, which represents 86% of the students who took dual enrollment classes. During the 2022-23 school year, 26 students took dual enrollment classes. This represented 30.5% of eligible students. 12 of these students took 2 or more classes. 26 students received college credit, which represents 100% of the students taking dual enrollment classes.

Teaching and Support Staff

Athens High School had 18 professional educators teaching this past year. Federal oversight and accountability placed on schools through the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation required every school district in America document how their teachers met the standards to be recognized as Highly Qualified. An audit completed by the Michigan Department of Education found that all of our teachers in the Athens Junior/Senior High School (or 100%) met the federal standards for being Highly Qualified to teach their assignments. 100% of our teachers hold a valid teacher certification with the state of Michigan. The paraprofessionals also are highly qualified.

Athletics

Our interscholastic sports program continues to move forward in a very positive and constructive direction. Athens offers student athletes the opportunity to compete in the following sports: Football, Cross Country, Basketball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Track and Field, Baseball, and Softball. We had a very busy year with extracurricular activities offered through the schools in Athens.

Clubs and Organizations

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is the student governing organization. The school administration delegates as much responsibility as it can successfully carry. Each class is entitled to representation in the Council. They initiate and direct many student activities. Students are asked to make suggestions to their representatives for the betterment of the school.

CLASS ORGANIZATION

Each class is newly organized at the beginning of each school year. The election of class officers will take place in the fall. Sponsors are appointed by the principal.

QUIZ BOWL

The purpose of this club is to compete with other schools in academic knowledge.

VARSITY CLUBS

The Varsity Clubs are composed of students who have won varsity letters in the interscholastic athletics. Their goal is to promote good sportsmanship and high standards in athletics in the school and community. Further information may be gained from the constitution.

THE ATHENIAN

The Athenian is the school yearbook, edited and published by the high school Publications class.

SPANISH CLUB

The purpose of this club is to promote interest in and appreciation of the Spanish language. It will provide the students with opportunities to experience cultural activities and events that could not be experienced in the classroom.

S.A.D.D.

The purpose of S.A.D.D. is to promote a safe and healthy attitude about drinking and drugs. The members post information and provide activities to help students make good decisions about drinking and drugs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

The purpose is to encourage recycling and student involvement in the beautification of the school and our earth.

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Youth in Government teaches democracy with active learning. Students write bills and learn parliamentary procedure to use during the spring trip to the Capitol in Lansing, Michigan.

Parental Involvement

The Athens Area Schools begin each year with an Open House designed to introduce and orient parents to our staff and facilities. At the beginning of each sports season, a Parent Night is held to introduce the coaching staff and Athletic Director and to review the athletic handbook or other rules/regulations

pertaining to student athletes. Three times each year we provide Parent/Teacher Conferences to update parents on their child's academic progress and to address any concerns parents may have with their child's school experiences. We also have a large number of parents using our Parent Connect web-based system to monitor attendance, grades, and nutrition. Aside from these regular opportunities for input, parents are encouraged to drop in to our school offices at any time. We also have a standing Committee on Sex Education, the Athletic Boosters Club, a Band Boosters Club, and a School Safety Standing Committee that have parent participation.

Dual Enrollment

Many students chose to enroll in college classes while attending Athens High School. This dual enrollment allowed them to earn college credit and credit for graduation from Athens at the same time. We currently do not offer any AP classes because of the ease of taking these dual enrollment college classes.

Student Achievement

Our core mission is really student achievement, plain and simple. Although we are often given many tasks and priorities by the state and federal government and by our own communities, our main purpose is to educate our students and help them reach their fullest human potential. Toward that end, we will review our strategic goals and the related data from our performance last year.

Our students will meet, or exceed, proficiency standards as measured by the state's standardized assessment in the core content areas of science, social studies, English/language arts (reading and writing), and mathematics.

One way of measuring this goal is by the state's standardized assessment scores on the M-STEP for grades 6th through 8th, and the Michigan Merit Exam (MME)/ M-STEP for the 11th grade. Eleventh graders also participate in taking the ACT/SAT. 8th-10th graders take the PSAT.

Besides the standardized testing administered by the state, we offer numerous other assessments to determine the needs of the students. Teachers also use a variety of formative and summative assessments to inform instruction. The high school has end-of-course exams which are given to all students.

When reviewing such data from the state and federal level on student academic performance, we also look closely at our special needs population. Each year the Michigan Department of Education performs an audit of 40 requirements from the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These requirements range in nature from official documentation and planning, time lines and legal actions, to student achievement and graduation.

Highlights and Student Successes

One of the unique attributes of this school district and this community is our focus on community service. We share the value that contributing the well-being of others is a worthy service and a legitimate outgrowth of a strong education. The Athens Board of Education requires that every student must

provide and substantiate 40 hours of community service during their junior and senior years to graduate from Athens High School.

Our high school students have been participating in the Youth in Government program for many years now, and each year our students distinguish themselves as leaders among their peers.

Included in the accompanying documents are specifics regarding the other information required for this report.