

Athens Area Schools

4320 K Drive South, East Leroy, MI

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(269) 729-5427

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 East Leroy 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 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.

East Leroy Elementary School's staff are dedicated to meeting the non-academic and academic needs of all of our students. While we strive to improve outcomes for our students, there are challenges that we need to address in order to raise student achievement. Key initiatives in our school improvement plan to address our challenges are: improving our third grade reading scores, improving our math scores, and reducing behavioral incidents.

The staff at East Leroy has continued to use the Bookworms K-5 Reading and Writing Curricular program. Bookworms consist of three 45-minute blocks of instructional minutes- Shared Reading, English Language Arts, and Differentiated Reading Instruction. This year's focus has been on differentiated reading instruction to meet the diverse needs of our students and ensuring all learners achieve success in reading. By leveraging the combined expertise of grade level teachers and reading interventionists, East Leroy can provide targeted, research-based instruction tailored to individual students' skill levels. Together, teachers and interventionists collaborate to monitor student progress, share insights, and implement evidence-based practices that align with the Bookworms curriculum. This team-based approach ensures that differentiated instruction is cohesive, data-driven, and responsive, ultimately fostering a learning environment where every student can thrive.

This year, East Leroy Elementary School has focused on establishing a strong foundation of a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) through the development of a school based leadership team and building staff understanding of MTSS principles. In addition, we continue to be committed to the implementation of the Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) framework to support our students' behavioral, academic, social, emotions, and mental health needs.

We continue to deepen our understanding of the *Eureka Math*² math program that was adopted two years ago. Through professional development, collaboration, and data-driven decision-making, teachers are enhancing their understanding of the curriculum's structure, aligning lessons with standards, and using data to inform instructional decisions.

East Leroy Elementary will continue to learn and grow as we continue professional development and PLC discussions geared towards meeting the non-academic and academic needs of our students. East Leroy Elementary teachers, staff and administrators will continue to utilize multiple achievement data sources to determine the effectiveness of our instructional strategies and learning opportunities.

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>

I appreciate the dedication and commitment of our school community to meet the needs of our students. East Leroy Elementary students, staff and families collaborate to overcome the challenges we face as a school and we look forward to our students' continued success and growth.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jheri Wilson

**East Leroy Elementary Annual Report
2023-2024
Athens Area Schools
COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE AND CARING
4320 K DRIVE SOUTH
EAST LEROY, MICHIGAN
269-729-5419**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ATHENS AREA SCHOOLS:

1. Everything that is done is in the best interest of the students.
2. No one has a right to harm others.
3. Everyone has a responsibility to help.

Most of our students are bused to our building, which is located seven miles north of the village of Athens, on eleven acres of rolling grassland bordered by woods. East Leroy has eighteen classrooms, Kindergarten through fifth grade. We also have a gymnasium, which serves as a cafeteria, and a library. East Leroy has a counseling office, a conference room, a music room, and a computer lab. We serve around 220 students who live across the entire geographical area of the school district. We have a staff of highly qualified teachers, as well as special education services, a counselor, secretary, and administrator. We also have highly qualified paraprofessionals.

East Leroy Elementary has a family setting with a strong sense of community. Our students are well-behaved and are accepting of differences. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the classroom and school activities. We are very proud of our school and the character our students display.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY WILL EDUCATE, ENCOURAGE AND GUIDE OUR STUDENTS BY PROVIDING A CHALLENGING, RELEVANT CURRICULUM AND APPROPRIATE RESOURCES WHICH WILL ENABLE THEM TO DEVELOP INTO RESPONSIBLE, SELF ASSURED, THINKING CITIZENS OF TOMORROW.

School Motto: Committed to Excellence and Caring

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 does 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

Athens Area Schools has adopted the Michigan Standards for all core areas. 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

This year, 92.86% of our parents attended conferences.
Last year, 85.32% of our parents attended conferences.

Caring for Others

The students demonstrate caring by helping out worthy causes. The school and community have been active in supporting and reaching out to others who need help. Students also participated in raising money for the Leukemia Foundation. We feel that character development and caring for others is as important as academics. The East Leroy staff and the East Leroy Student Council also rang the bell for the Salvation Army at Christmas time.

Excellence

Excellence is demonstrated by the M-STEP scores. Besides the standardized testing administered by the state, we offer numerous other assessments to determine the needs of the students. At the elementary level, there are Reading assessments such as DIBELS and MLPP. The STAR tests have both reading and math assessments and this is how we determine individual student progress. The math program has additional assessments and the science kits have pre and posttests. Teachers also use a variety of formative and summative assessments in the elementary. Math Recovery provides additional assessments in Mathematics as well as ways to remediate students.

All of our administrators, teachers and paraprofessionals are highly qualified according to the federal requirements.

Parental Involvement

East Leroy Elementary begins each year with an Open House designed to introduce and orient parents to our staff and facilities. Twice each year the schools 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. Over 90% of parents attend these conferences. We also have a large number of parents using our Parent Connect web-based system to monitor attendance, grades, and nutrition. We provide regular newsletters home to parents. Our district website and Facebook offer many opportunities for parents to gain information.

Aside from these regular opportunities for input, parents are encouraged to drop in to our school offices at any time. Our Board of Education holds a Business Session the third Monday of each month. Parents and community members are welcome to provide "public comments" at the appropriate times during the agenda and can participate extensively in the work session topics as they are discussed by the Board.

East Leroy Elementary has a longstanding Parent/Teacher/Student Organization (PTSO) made up of concerned parents wishing to have a more formal and positive influence on our schools. We also have Motor Moms and Dads offered at the elementary school strictly through parent volunteers to provide activities that enhance gross, fine and visual motor skill development. There were a number of opportunities for parents to volunteer in special projects around our District last year. We cannot adequately express our appreciation for all of the parents and community members who volunteered their time and talents so selflessly to help our schools and students.

East Leroy Elementary has gained a reputation for excellence and we have been consulted by other schools to find out the secret of our success.

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

