

# WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY AREA SCHOOLS

Gail Hughey, Superintendent

Mailing address:  
P. O. Box 308  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Phone: (989) 343-2000



[www.wbrc.k12.mi.us](http://www.wbrc.k12.mi.us)

Physical address:  
960 South M-33  
West Branch, MI 48661  
Fax: (989) 343-2006

---

February 15, 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 the **Surline Middle 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 our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Jenny Winter, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [www.wbrc.k12.mi.us](http://www.wbrc.k12.mi.us) selecting the **Academics** button as you scroll down on the home page; then clicking on "Annual Education Reports" on the right 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 has not been given one of these labels.

## **Key Initiatives to Accelerate Achievement and Close Achievement Gaps**

Surline Middle School is working to close the achievement gap with the bottom 30 percent of students in each grade level. First, teachers are working to strengthen overall instruction. We have seen that student attendance is becoming more consistent. Students that need additional instruction may see an interventionist to strengthen reading and math skills. Students can access before and after school tutoring as well as summer school. Staff is revisiting the work of Eric Jensen as all children benefit from his strategies including children of poverty and the bottom 30 percent. Teachers are supported through professional development and the use of a part time instructional coach. Implementation of specific instructional strategies is monitored by administration during observations over the course of the school year using the 5 Dimensions of Teaching and Learning rubrics. Capturing Kids' Hearts has been adopted throughout the district to support student engagement by building strong positive relationships.

### **1. Process for Assigning Pupils to Schools**

The West Branch-Rose City school district services most of Ogemaw County and parts of Gladwin and Oscoda counties and covers an area of approximately 538 square miles. Students are assigned to the K-5 buildings based on traditional boundaries for established attendance areas and by parent request. Parents can contact the transportation department at 989.343.2240 with inquiries regarding the attendance areas.

### **2. Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan**

The district improvement plan identifies the academic goals for all district students, including a measurable objective, strategy and activity details, and required fiscal resources. The district submits an improvement plan that is aligned to the specific needs of the students in each building. The building school improvement team evaluates the effectiveness of the plan and reports progress toward achieving the school improvement goals to the district school improvement team each spring. The school improvement team consists of representatives of all stakeholders. School improvement documents are available in each building, at central office, and on the web site [www.wbrc.k12.mi.us](http://www.wbrc.k12.mi.us).

### **3. Description of Each Specialized School**

The district's four-year-old, Great Start Readiness Program, is designed to give students a start on school skills before entering kindergarten. Both elementary and middle school buildings qualify as school-wide Title 1 buildings, and students receive services accordingly. Students receive instructional services to eliminate reading and math deficits through careful planning and instruction from interventionists and extended day teachers. Besides in-district programs for students with specialized learning needs, students who are eligible may access the C.O.O.R. Educational Center at the ISD site. The purpose of the center is to provide services to students with specialized disabilities as defined by state statute.

### **4. Core Curriculum**

Alignment to our state academic standards set forth by the Michigan Department of Education is reviewed following the district schedule of curriculum review and implementation. Adjustments are made within that schedule and as needed to meet the required changes. The Michigan standards outline learning expectations for our students and guide our work at the district level. Local content experts work together to choose the necessary resources, instructional strategies and pacing to meet the rigorous standards which are assessed using local and state assessments. We have adopted the ReadyGen reading series K-5 and My Perspectives series 6-12. These resources align our ELA program K-12 and continue our work to integrate the Essential Literacy Practices. Our math instruction K-5 uses Engage NY resources, while our higher math adopted the CPM program focused on problem solving and collaboration. Teachers are immersed in professional learning surrounding our math and reading programs. Our Science instruction is focused on inquiry. We currently utilize Mystery Science at the K- 5 level, the Modeling Curriculum 6-12, and Project Lead the Way in our Rose City School. Social studies teachers utilize McGraw-Hill.

**5. Student Achievement Results for Nationally Normed Achievement Tests**

NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) was administered to all students in grades 5-8 in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Results are as follows:

2022-2023	NWEA – READING			NWEA – MATHEMATICS		
	Achievement Status		Growth	Achievement Status		Growth
	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Spring 2023	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Spring 2023
Grade	Percentile	Percentile	Percent	Percentile	Percentile	Percent
5	18	12	44	17	12	33
6	40	39	51	33	22	32
7	41	26	41	39	36	42
8	50	37	39	46	39	44

2023-2024	NWEA – READING			NWEA – MATHEMATICS		
	Achievement Status		Growth	Achievement Status		Growth
	Fall 2023	Spring 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2023	Spring 2023	Spring 2024
Grade	Percentile	Percentile	Percent	Percentile	Percentile	Percent
5	63	49	41	39	62	73
6	21	28	57	10	22	71
7	32	20	36	24	26	52
8	35	29	45	39	37	56

**Status Percentile:** Percentage ranking compared to the same grade and subject in the NWEA norms study.

**Growth Percent:** The percent that met or exceeded the growth projection for the grade from Fall to Spring.

**6. Students Represented by Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-teacher conferences were scheduled for November and March. The number and percent of students represented by a parent or guardian at conferences are as follows:

**Fall 2023:** 37 %

**Spring 2024:** 23%

The West Branch-Rose City staff is commended for the hard work and dedication that is evident on a daily basis. The district works to provide a quality education to all students and sets high academic standards. Accelerating academic achievement for all students is an expectation across the curriculum. Parent, community, and business involvement is welcomed at all levels; contact the building principals to learn about opportunities to get involved. I am proud of the fact that the district provides quality instruction and programs for students with support from the community. This will continue to be our organizational focus.

Sincerely,

Gail Hughey, Superintendent