



BEAR LAKE SCHOOLS

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February 1, 2026

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 Bear Lake School District and our schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Mrs. Harless if you need assistance.

The District and School AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following:

[Bear Lake School District](#)

[Bear Lake Elementary School](#)

[Bear Lake Middle and High School](#)

You may review a copy of these reports in the main office at the school.

These reports contain the following information:

Student Assessment Data

- Includes the following three assessments: M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), MI-Access (Alternate Assessment), and College Board SAT
- Present assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and MI-Access science for grades 4, 7, and 11, compared to state averages for all students as well as subgroups of students.

School Accountability Data

- Includes information on schools' performance on various measures such as student proficiency and growth on state assessments, graduation, and attendance rates. Performance is measured on a 0-100 index scale
- Reports schools identified under three federally required categories for further support: Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support

Educator Qualification Data

- Identifies the number and percentage of inexperienced teachers, principals, and other school leaders
- Reports teachers who are teaching with emergency or provisional credentials
- Includes teachers who are not teaching in the subject or field for which they are certified

Civil Rights Data

- Provides information on school quality, climate, and safety

For the 2025-26 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 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 status label is given.

Our schools have not been given one of these labels.

A key challenge for Bear Lake School at this time is closing the achievement gap in reading and math. A new math curriculum was purchased before the 2021-2022 school year, and a new elementary reading curriculum was purchased before the 2023-2024 school year that was vetted to align with the state standards. We continue to close achievement gaps within our subgroups and meet the same standards as peer schools. We earned the status of **Reward School** in our Elementary on the 2022-2023 School Grade Report for this achievement. The elementary school was also ranked within the Top 10 for public elementary schools, the 2nd ranking rural elementary school, and among the 100 most improved schools according to The Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Our Middle and High School was ranked 204/1,135 high schools in Michigan by U.S. News & World Report.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Bear Lake Elementary (K-6), and Middle and High School (7-12) have one school in our district. All K-6 students in our district attend Bear Lake Elementary School. All 7-12 students in our district attend Bear Lake Middle/High School.
2. Bear Lake's School Improvement Plan is based upon a District mission statement and guided by an educational philosophy as adopted by the School Board. Both Bear Lake Elementary and Bear Lake Middle/Middle High Schools have developed school improvement plans centered on student growth. Each plan contains goals that address core areas. The current plans emphasize curriculum implementation with fidelity, improving test scores through student growth. The goals are analyzed and updated annually with key data.

3. Bear Lake School District does not have any specialized schools.
4. Bear Lake Elementary and Middle/High School curriculum is 100% aligned with the Michigan Academic Standards. These standards can be obtained in the school's main office or at [Michigan Academic Standards](#), and the curriculum can be accessed here: [Bear Lake School Curriculum Link](#).
5. NWEA and Michigan Benchmark Assessment Student Growth Data: The NWEA and Michigan Benchmark Assessment tests are administered 3 times per year. A benchmark is determined for each student based on national norm standards after fall testing. Students are given a projected growth for a full school year. The percentages in the table below are the students who met their projected growth in the spring of the 2024-2025 school year.

Achievement or Growth on Benchmark Assessment

Reporting Category	2023-2024 School Year		2024-2025 School Year	
	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
All Students (K-6)	85%	90%	86%	88%
All Students (7-12)	60%	60%	71%	60%

6. Number of Parent Contacts for Parent/Teacher Conferences

	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025
Elementary	134	130	127	123
Middle School	42	46	42	38
High School	35	58	99	68
Total	221	234	268	229

7. Bear Lake High School Dual Enrollment

2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2023-2024	2024-2025
8 students participate	14 students participate	10 students participate	8 students participate	15 students participate

Bear Lake High School Technical Prep Enrollment

2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2023-2024	2024-2025
29 students participate	32 students participate	38 students participate	27 students participate	27 students participate

Through this annual report, we give you a glimpse of a school system that strives continuously to provide students with educational opportunities that will give them a competitive edge to be college and career-ready.

We greatly appreciate the support of our students and community, which has allowed us to move our district forward. All that we have accomplished would not be possible without the continued support of the entire community.

The accomplishments of our students reflect the expectations, commitment, and involvement of parents and other dedicated school and community members who collaborate to ensure high-caliber educational opportunities for all students.

Sincerely,

Jakob Veith

Jakob Veith
Superintendent