

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

February 9, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2022-23 educational progress for Waukazoo 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 Audra Bolhuis for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [\*\*Waukazoo Elementary's Annual Education Report\*\*](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2023-24 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 2022-23. 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 or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school was not identified for improvement and has not been given one of these labels.

While Waukazoo does score above the state averages, at each grade level 3-5, in proficiency on the ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies measures (the 2022-2023 M-Step) there is certainly room for improvement. Waukazoo has continued a Math RTI program piloted the year previous and has added Math RTI as a focus to both School Improvement Team meetings as well as building level professional development. These efforts are aimed to reduce the gap between ELA and Math performances on the M-Step. Waukazoo, along with all of the West Ottawa elementary schools, is piloting a new math curriculum that aligns with the most up to date Math Standards.

Additionally, subgroup data is an area of focus within the building. Professional learning on Special Education, diversity, inclusion, and engagement have all been incorporated into staff development for the year.

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:**

## **Process for Assigning Students**

Students are assigned to Waukazoo based upon a geographical location. Boundaries for bussing exist in the eight-elementary school district. If parents request Waukazoo and are classified as "school of choice" families, they provide their own transportation. The Montessori program, which is housed for all West Ottawa elementary students at Waukazoo, does incorporate students from across the entire district as well as from neighboring districts. Waukazoo Elementary is frequently requested by parents.

## **School Improvement Plan**

Please refer to the District Michigan Continuous Improvement Plan, which includes:

### **By June 2023, 85% of all students will demonstrate proficiency in all reading standards in English Language Arts as measured by state level assessments.**

Strategies that we will use to improve our reading scores include a focus on comprehension and using collaborative grade level and school teams to consistently analyze demographic and achievement data to inform decisions regarding implementation of best practices, instructional resources, and assessment tools for use in K-5.

### **By June 2023, 85% of all students will demonstrate a proficiency in all writing standards in English Language Arts as measured by state level assessments.**

Strategies that we will use to continue our improvement in writing include using collaborative grade level and school teams to consistently analyze writing data to inform instructional decisions, a focus on writing strategies in all core content areas, and consistently use SIOP instructional strategies to meet individual student needs.

## **A Brief Description of Waukazoo Elementary School**

Waukazoo Elementary services both a general education population of YK-5 students and special education students through inclusion and a resource program. We annually serve approximately 475+ students in our school. We fully implement a Multi Tier System of Supports to ensure high levels of learning for all students. Waukazoo Elementary is also the home to West Ottawa's Montessori Program. This approach to teaching and learning provides one more way we try to design and develop programs that meet the learning styles of individuals. We have an active parent/volunteer community, which provides Waukazoo Elementary an additional support and relationship to draw upon.

## **Our Core Curriculum**

The core curriculum, based on the Michigan State Standards provides a framework for our educational programs. It is a set of expectations all students should achieve to progress in their schooling. We are working to deliver a curriculum that provides all students with the knowledge and skills necessary for living effectively today and in the future. Our curriculum provides extended opportunities designed to meet individual needs. Course offerings exceed core curriculum requirements established by the Michigan Department of Education. Strong academic programming is supported by quality technology and facilities.

Integrated with our core academic curriculum and enhancing a student's quality educational experiences are:

## Clubs, organizations, and athletics

- Community partnerships
- Field trips, assemblies, and special activities/events
- Integration of technology into instruction and assessment
- Library-media resources
- Special education
- Student government
- Technology tools/resources

Student achievement remains our top priority. Higher standards and greater expectations have resulted in the implementation of a variety of instructional practices, progressive teaching strategies, and specialized programs designed to respond to the individual needs and learning styles of a diverse student population. We offer a demanding academic schedule for all students with an emphasis on ensuring we are preparing each and every student to be college, career and life ready.

We embrace the concept of a brain-compatible learning environment, recognizing that individuals learn at different rates of growth through different methods of instruction and a variety of teaching/learning styles. Our curriculum makes provisions for the variability of academic skills, interests, social/emotional, and physical development of our students.

### Aggregate Student Achievement Results on Local Assessment

### **Acadience Learning/DIBELS Next Composite Scores**

(June 2022/June 2023)

#### **Benchmark Goal 80%**

	<b>WZ 2022</b>	<b>WZ 2023</b>
K	93%	91 %
1st	75%	88 %
2nd	75%	79 %
3rd	84%	85 %
4th	84%	82 %
5th	92%	75 %
AVG	83.8%	83.3 %

#### **Strategic Goal 15%**

	<b>WZ 2022</b>	<b>WZ 2023</b>
K	6%	3%
1st	12%	5%
2nd	15%	8%
3rd	6%	7%
4th	12%	8%
5th	4%	20%
AVG	9.2%	8.5%

#### **Intensive Goal 5%**

	<b>WZ 2022</b>	<b>WZ 2023</b>
K	2%	6%
1st	13%	7%
2nd	11%	13%
3rd	10%	8%
4th	4%	10%
5th	4%	5%
AVG	7.3%	8.2%

## **Parent and Community Involvement in our School**

Parent and community involvement in the education of children and participation in the life

of a school are reflected in many ways. One avenue is attendance at parent-teacher conferences.

- In 2022-2023, the percentage of parents that attended parent-teacher conferences was over 90%
- In 2021-2022, the percentage of parents that attended parent-teacher conferences was 98%

Additionally, as mentioned above, parents are actively involved in school activities through volunteering and the Waukazoo PTA. The PTA is an active and dynamic part of the school community which supports and enhances the instructional programs and activities at Waukazoo. All Waukazoo parents are encouraged to attend monthly meetings and get involved in the many events coordinated throughout the school year. One annual PTA fundraiser produces the means by which the PTA operates, providing activities, parties, assemblies, field trips, and special instructional materials for our students.

In closing, we are very proud of Waukazoo Elementary and appreciate the partnership of our families as a community nurturing future thinkers and leaders. We are proud of our students and appreciate how their efforts have led us to be recognized as one of the premiere schools in West Michigan, based on our achievement. We are a globally minded school preparing children to be respectful, responsible, and ready to learn.

Sincerely,

Audra Bolhuis  
Principal, Waukazoo Elementary