



WAYLAND UNION SCHOOLS
H O M E O F T H E W I L D C A T S

February 14, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2023-2024 educational progress for Baker Elementary 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 Principal Rachel Cimek, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site [2024-2025 WUMS AER](#) 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. Wayland Union Middle School has not been given one of these labels.

The WUMS staff will continue to use research based reading programs like IXL, CommonLit, NewsELA, and guided highlighted reading strategies to increase our students' reading fluency and comprehension levels. Student interventions will be offered in core content areas when students fall below benchmark. The science teachers will utilize the Van Andel Institute instruction model and MiStar curriculum to provide students with activities that require them to make claims, use evidence to support the claim, and then summarize the entire process. The social studies department will continue to use the Oakland County curriculum to deliver historical information and practice the necessary skills needed to be a productive citizen in the 21st century. Lastly, we will continue to use our 1:1 iPad initiative to engage and enhance student learning opportunities.

Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Our district has one middle school and Wayland Union Middle School houses 6th - 8th grade students.

School Improvement

Over the past four years, our school has diligently worked to implement and refine the district's Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Plan (MICIP), with a specific focus on enhancing students' proficiency in claim, evidence, and reasoning (CER) skills. Through strategic planning, collaborative efforts among educators, Professional Learning Community (PLC) teams, and targeted classroom instruction in all content areas, we have witnessed excellent progress in the development of these critical academic competencies among our students. The implementation of evidence-based teaching strategies, ongoing professional development for teachers, and a commitment to data driven decision-making contribute to the positive outcomes observed, as students demonstrate an increased ability to construct well-supported arguments, critically analyze information, and effectively communicate their ideas.

Special Programs

Wayland Union Schools provides all students with an exceptional academic education, geared towards individual student needs. Individualized supports, interventions and opportunities are provided to empower students to reach their full potential. For students who are eligible for special education we provide a continuum of services to meet their needs. The Individualized Educational Plan Team (IEPT) makes decisions regarding the appropriate programs and services providing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment. Along with instructional support, the district employs ancillary support services that include speech and language pathologists, school social workers, teacher consultants, occupational therapists, and school psychologists. In cooperation with Allegan Area Educational Service Agency (AAESA) teacher consultant services for visual impairments, hearing impairments, autism spectrum disorder, and orientation and mobility, behavioral consultants and physical therapists.

Special education programs are provided in compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) and the Allegan Area Educational Service Agencies ISD Plan. Special education programs are located in each building in the district and are based on each individual student's level of need as an alternative to the disability specific programs outlined in MARSE. Programs and services for our youngest students, age birth to three, and for our students whose level of need requires extensive ongoing support throughout the day are provided through AAESA.

Core Curriculum

The core curriculum 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.

Wayland Union Middle School teachers use district approved curriculum resources to implement our core instruction. These include Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Technology, Fine and Performing Arts, and Physical Education. All areas of the curriculum are reviewed annually within a five-year cycle.

The five year process includes reviewing the current curriculum along with the revisions received from the Michigan Department of Education, revising the curriculum, implementing the revision, monitoring the implementation, and finally, evaluating the data and the curriculum revisions to determine when certain concepts should be introduced at a particular grade level. Curriculum revisions and/or textbook and software purchases are reviewed and recommended to the Board of Education by the District School Improvement Committee. Access to the core curriculum can be found on our district website, waylandunion.org, under “Curriculum and Instruction.”

Teachers receive professional development and training in areas of the curriculum that have been revised or when students have not been able to demonstrate adequate performance. It is important for teachers to be aware of each individual student that is not performing to district and state standards and plan their instruction accordingly. Our curriculum provides expanded opportunities designed to meet individual needs for both struggling and advanced students. Our building offers accelerated classes in the areas of language arts, math, and foreign language. 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:

- Community partnerships
- Field trips, assemblies, and special activities/events
- Integration of technology into instruction and assessment
- Library-media resources
- Active and involved parent participation with the WIPTO (Wayland Intermediate Parent Teacher Organization)

Student achievement remains our top priority. Higher standards and greater expectations have resulted in the implementation of a variety of instructional methods, 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 and fine and performing arts schedule for all students with an emphasis on post-secondary preparation skills.

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, and social, emotional, and physical development within our student population.

In addition, our students are encouraged to participate in MHSSA athletic opportunities and extracurricular initiatives in order to practice teamwork and citizenship qualities.

Aggregate Student Achievement Results on District Assessments and Nationally Normed Achievement Tests

2022-2023 M-Step

| Grade | Subject | At or Above Proficiency | Below Proficiency |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 6th Grade | ELA | 51.5% | 48.5% |
| 7th Grade | ELA | 36.6% | 63.4% |
| 6th Grade | Math | 39.3% | 60.7% |
| 7th Grade | Math | 34.5% | 65.5% |
| 8th Grade | Science | 54.2% | 45.8% |
| 8th Grade | Social Studies | 33.3% | 66.7% |

2023-2024 M-Step

| Grade | Subject | At or Above Proficiency | Below Proficiency |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 6th Grade | ELA | 46.9% | 53.1% |
| 7th Grade | ELA | 38.2% | 61.8% |
| 6th Grade | Math | 36.0% | 64.0% |
| 7th Grade | Math | 33.2% | 66.8% |
| 8th Grade | Science | 42.1% | 57.9% |
| 8th Grade | Social Studies | 30.7% | 69.3% |

2022-2023 PSAT

| Grades | Subject | At or Above Proficiency | Below Proficiency |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 8th Grade | English | 65.4% | 34.6% |
| 8th Grade | Math | 46.7% | 53.3% |

2023-2024 PSAT

| Grades | Subject | At or Above Proficiency | Below Proficiency |
|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 8th Grade | English | 76.1% | 23.9% |
| 8th Grade | Math | 36.7% | 63.3% |

Parent Teacher Conference Rates

| | Fall | Spring |
|-----------|------|--------|
| 2023-2024 | 44% | 28% |
| 2022-2023 | 39% | 23% |

Additional Points of Pride

- Highly qualified and caring staff
- Middle School Interventionist
- District wide 1:1 iPad initiative
- The middle school continues to utilize the school improvement process (MICIP) and student achievement data to drive instructional decisions on a regular basis
- Accelerated Program (Accelerated Language Arts, Spanish and Math courses)
- Community Service Activities performed by Student Council
- FIRST FTC Robotics Team made it to the State Competition
- Students have a variety of activities to choose from including; school dances, Drama Club, Ski Club, Spelling Bee, Student Council, Yearbook Committee, Peer to Peer Program
- Several athletic opportunities are also available to students. More than half of our students participate in a sport
- Positive Behavioral Supports Program (PBIS)
- Fine and Performing Arts Programs (Band, Jazz Band, Choir, and Orchestra).
- S.T.E.A.M. Exploratory Class

Our school provides students with a safe and secure place to grow academically, socially, and emotionally.

Sincerely,

Rachel Cimek

Principal, Wayland Union Middle School