

North Branch Area Schools

6655 Jefferson Rd
P.O. Box 3620
North Branch, MI 48461-0620
(810) 688-3570
Fax (810) 688-7010
www.nbbrncos.net

James D. Fish
Superintendent

January 12, 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 the North Branch High 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 Mark Hiltunen for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/3GKhtHx>, 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 has 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 is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. 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.

North Branch High School is focused on improving test scores in all four core subject areas (English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies) and improving education for all students based on data. All decisions regarding school improvement are based on data gathered from PSAT 9 & 10, PSAT/NMSQT and SAT test results. Our building has focused on student's ability to read and write as one of the primary strategies to assist student growth. A student's ability to read, communicate, and understand are critical to academic success in all core areas. The focus is to close persistent achievement gaps between the lowest and highest 30% of student scores. Researched based and vetted academic instructional strategies will be evaluated before, during, and after implementation.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Students are assigned to the High School by completing requirements at the Middle School level. Once at the High School, students advance to the next grade level based on credits earned.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The members of the School Improvement Team, comprised of core, elective, and special education teachers, as well as counselors and administrators, have been working collaboratively with all staff to drive the school improvement process at North Branch High School. The focus of our School Improvement process is developing and implementing interactive problem-based units ([Essential Instructional Practices for Disciplinary Literacy](#)) of instruction that frames authentic problems to help establish authentic purposes for students to read, write, and communicate in all content areas. Problem-based learning (PBL) is a student-centered approach in which students learn about a subject by working in groups to solve an open-ended problem. This problem is what drives the motivation and the learning.

In addition to teaching course content, problem-based learning can promote the development of critical thinking skills, problem-solving abilities, and communication skills. It can also provide opportunities for working in groups, finding and evaluating research materials, and life-long learning

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Not Applicable

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

A copy of the Core Curriculum may be attained from the State of Michigan, Department of Education Website. North Branch High School follows the recommended Core Curriculum. A copy of the NBHS Core Curriculum can be viewed at the High School office.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Not applicable

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Approximately 34% of our parents participate in student-teacher conferences. Student progress is monitored by a larger percentage of our parents via our on-line Skyward Family Access portal as well as personal contact by staff members.

7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

a. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT) 59 students (9%) participated in Dual Enrollment classes.

b. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)
North Branch High School offered: AP English Literature (11th grade), AP English Composition (12th grade), AP Psychology, AP Calculus; AP Computer Science Principles, AP United States History, AP World History.

c. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP)
80 (11.38%) students took AP courses during the 2022-2023 school year.

d. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT

56 students (70% of students who took AP exams) received a score leading to college credit.

I wish to thank all North Branch High School Constituents for their dedicated work over the past few years. We have worked hard to create a safe and caring school environment. In addition to our outstanding educational programs, you'll find our positive family atmosphere helps us achieve academically, and emotionally. Please spend a few moments perusing this Annual Education Report to see what's happening in our schools. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort. If you have any questions regarding the annual report, please contact the North Branch High School Office at (810) 688-3001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark J. Hiltunen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark J. Hiltunen, M.Ed.
Principal