



Jackson Public Schools

Cascades Elementary School

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jpsk12.org/cascades

February 10, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on Cascades Elementary School's 2023-2024 educational progress. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality information. If you have questions about the AER, please contact Principal Willie Lewis for assistance at 517-841-3900.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: [Cascades](#) or [MISchoolData](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2024-2025 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 has at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2023-2024. Additionally, Targeted Support (ATS) schools 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. This school is identified as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school.

At Cascades Elementary, our key challenge is closing the achievement gaps in **Math and English Language Arts (ELA)** among our student subgroups. As a dedicated team of educators, we continuously assess these gaps and implement targeted strategies to bridge them. The COVID-19 pandemic has further impacted student learning, leading to increased absences and shifting social-emotional needs among students and families. These challenges have influenced academic progress, but our staff remains committed to meeting each student where they are academically and emotionally, providing individualized instruction and support to help them reach grade-level proficiency and beyond.

To strengthen our instructional approach, we have adopted new educational resources, including **iReady for Math** and **Open Court for ELA**. We also utilize best practices such as Guided Reading Groups, small group and whole group instruction, and Tier 3 support

through W.I.N. (What I Need) time. To ensure ongoing progress, we closely monitor student development using Fountas and Pinnell assessments, iReady Diagnostic data, teacher observations, and small group evaluations with paraprofessionals. Additionally, we integrate various online educational platforms, including iReady MyPath, Lexia Core 5, UFLI and Class Dojo to enhance communication and learning opportunities.

At Cascades Elementary, our goal is to empower every student to reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Cascades Elementary is a neighborhood school that accepts both in district and out of district school of choice.

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

At Cascades Elementary, our **School Improvement Team** is made up of dedicated teachers and support staff who work together to make our school the best it can be for all students. We receive guidance from the **Jackson County Intermediate School District (JCISD)** through the **School Improvement Facilitators Network Meetings**, where we collaborate on ways to strengthen student learning and success.

To create our **School Improvement Plan**, we carefully review student assessment data from **M-STEP, NWEA, iReady Diagnostic assessments, and Fountas and Pinnell**. By analyzing this data, we identify areas where students need more support and discuss school-wide changes that can help all students grow academically. Our plan focuses on four key areas: **Reading, Math, Parent Involvement, and Student Behavior**.

To better support students, we are building staff knowledge and skills with the help of our **MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) Coach**. We also have **School Social Workers and a Behavior Interventionist** who provide additional support to help students succeed both in and out of the classroom.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

At Cascades Elementary, we use **Positive Behavior Intervention Systems (PBIS)** to create a safe and positive learning environment for all students. This helps reduce disruptions in the classroom so that every child can focus on learning and growing.

We also follow the **Leader in Me** program, which teaches students important life skills based on the [7 Habits of Highly Effective People](#). This program helps students develop leadership skills, responsibility, and a positive mindset.

To support students' social and emotional well-being, we have **dedicated school counselors and social workers** for both lower and upper elementary grades. Our social workers provide daily emotional support to students who need it. Additionally, our **Behavior Interventionist** works with students in all grade levels, helping them develop positive behaviors and supporting teachers in creating a successful classroom environment.

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

The State Board of Education's Model Core Curriculum identifies the curriculum benchmarks and standards. Cascades Elementary School teachers follow these common core standards. The core curriculum can be found on our website at www.jpsk12.org.

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

Achievement or Growth on Benchmark Assessment- By Grade Level

NWEA	Fall 2022- 2023		Spring 2022-2023	
Grade Level	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Kindergarten	46%	45%	38%	52%
First Grade	40%	44%	45%	42%
Second Grade	23%	32%	35%	45%
Third Grade	37%	45%	31%	45%
Fourth Grade	68%	55%	67%	53%
Fifth Grade	67%	56%	58%	38%

NWEA	Fall 2023- 2024		Spring 2023-2024	
Grade Level	Reading	Math	Reading	Math
Kindergarten	49%	47%	61%	63%
First Grade	42%	50%	40%	56%
Second Grade	30%	38%	33%	41%
Third Grade	28%	19%	27%	24%
Fourth Grade	19%	17%	26%	25%
Fifth Grade	39%	15%	29%	14%

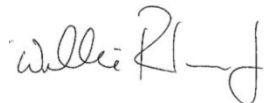
6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

During the fall of 2022 Parent-Teacher Conferences, 77% of our Cascades parents attended in person.

During the fall of 2023 Parent-Teacher Conferences, <75% of our Cascades parents attended in person.

At Cascades Elementary, our staff is dedicated to creating a supportive, engaging, and family-like environment where students can thrive. We believe that every child has unrealized potential, and we work tirelessly to help them discover it. Through Professional Learning Communities, our educators collaborate to support students academically, socially, and emotionally, ensuring that learning is both fun and meaningful. We are committed to educating the whole child by partnering with families, businesses, and community organizations to provide unique opportunities that inspire students to see new possibilities for their futures. Every day, we encourage students to dream big and strive for success, knowing that the work we do today will change lives for years to come.

Sincerely,



Willie Lewis
Principal for Instruction
Cascades Elementary