Madison Metropolitan School District

Cherokee Middle School

State Report Card: Meets Few Expectations (2 star)

2025-2026 School Improvement Plan

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School Overview

Cherokee Heights has one of the largest DLI and Bilingual programs in MMSD and a school population of 575 students. Our school is very diverse and has one of the largest attendance zones in MMSD. The racial demographic is African American 13%, Latino 44%, White 33%. Our attendance zone expands from the south, west, and southwest Midvale neighborhood where our school is located. Three elementary feeder schools feed into Cherokee Heights. Our behavior incidents have decreased by 61% compared to 2019 and the end of the 2024 school year. ___% of our school population has a 90% attendance rate or better. Our biggest challenge is that 39% of our students in 2022-2023 were proficient on the ELA portion of the Forward Exam. Additionally, 30% of our students in 2022-2023 were proficient on the Math portion of the Forward Exam. This rate is lower for our students of color; 17.7% of our Black/African American students and 11.8% of our Hispanic/Latino students are proficient in ELA. Whereas 6.5% of our Black/African American students and 8.0% of our Hispanic/Latino students are proficient in Math.

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Goals

Goal 1 Every child is on track to graduate ready for college, career, and community.

Performance Objective 1

By the end of three years, we will have increased our students' literacy proficiency by 10 percentage points as measured by the Forward.

Evaluation Data Source: Forward ELA

Strategy 1

We will implement a data-driven approach to small group instruction that caters to diverse learners and targets specific student needs in literacy.

Strategy 2

Our approach to building disciplinary literacy merges best practices from AVID and EL Core Practices to empower students across content areas. Teams will leverage strengths of close reading and annotation strategies specific to their content area.

Performance Objective 2

By the end of three years, we will have increased our students' math proficiency by 10 percentage points as measured by the Forward

Evaluation Data Source: Forward Math

Strategy 1

We will implement a data-driven approach to small group instruction that caters to diverse learners and targets specific student needs in Math while supporting student discourse.

Strategy 2

Math Classes will focus on key mathematical vocabulary instruction and promoting mathematical literacy.

Goal 2 The district and every school in it is a place where children, staff, and families thrive.

Performance Objective 1

By the end of three years, we will have increased our students' attendance rate of 90% or higher by 15 percentage points.

Evaluation Data Source: Percent of students with 90% or higher attendance rate.

Strategy 1

Cherokee Heights will implement a structured attendance incentive program that focuses on Tier 2 attendance, encouraging and rewarding students who meet or exceed a predefined attendance goal.

Strategy 2

CHMS will strengthen student attendance by forming a dedicated committee to analyze trends, identify barriers, and implement targeted incentives and strategies that promote consistent participation.

Strategy 3

CHMS will strengthen student and family connections through a comprehensive Advisory program. Advisory will integrate Circles of Power and Respect (CPRs), Developmental Designs, socio-emotional learning, attendance monitoring, Academic and Career Planning (ACP), AVID strategies, and Sustained Silent Reading (SSR).

Goal 3 African American children and youth excel in school.

Performance Objective 1

By the end of three years, we will have increased our African American students' literacy proficiency by 15 percentage points as measured by the Forward.

Evaluation Data Source: Forward ELA

Strategy 1

CHMS will strengthen literacy outcomes for Black/African American students through data-driven small-group instruction. Teachers will use classroom data to form flexible groups that target specific skills.

Performance Objective 2

By the end of three years, we will have increased our African American students' math proficiency by 15 percentage points as measured by the Forward.

Evaluation Data Source: Forward Math

Strategy 1

CHMS will strengthen math outcomes for Black/African American students through data-driven small-group instruction. Teachers will use classroom data to form flexible groups that target specific skills.

Performance Objective 3

By the end of three years, we will have increased our African American students' attendance rate of 90% or higher by 25 percentage points.

Evaluation Data Source: Percent of African American students with 90% or higher attendance rate.

Strategy 1

CHMS will engage all staff and students in a schoolwide read of This Book Is Anti-Racist by Tiffany Jewell to build a shared foundation for equity-focused practice and dialogue. The text will serve as an entry point for reflection, discussion, and collective action to foster inclusive classrooms and affirm student identities.