BLACK RIVER
PUBLIC SCHOOL

January 26, 2026

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2024-25 educational progress for Black River Public Elementary School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about accountability, student assessment, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact the Curriculum Director, Carrie Ames, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: https://www.mischooldata.org/annual-education-report/?PageName:Accountability&_SchoolYear-Report%20Year:2025-26&_Entity-ISD%20Name%20(ISD%20Code):Ottawa%20Area%20ISD%20(70)&_Entity-District%20Name%20(District%20Code):Black%20River%20Public%20School%20(70904)&_Entity-School%20Name%20(School%20Code):Black%20River%20Public%20School%20Elementary%20(02914)& or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2025-26 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 group in 2024-25. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had at least one student group 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%, failed to exit CSI status in 2024-25, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

This report and the information attached show Black River Elementary School's continual work to improve our students' growth and achievement. The multiple measures listed paint a picture of how our programs both challenge and support student learning. This report highlights some of the points that will be considered in redeveloping our School and District Improvement Plans.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Admissions Process

Contact Kelli Heneghan, Director of Enrollment, if you have questions regarding enrolling your student at Black River Public School or would like to set up a time to tour the campus. Kelli can be reached via email at heneghank@brpsk12.org or by phone at 616-355-0055 ext. 116.

Charter School Enrollment Provisions of State Law

The Admissions Policy of Black River Public School is developed based on the language of the state law, which refers to a charter school as a "public school academy." Because Black River Public School is chartered by Grand Valley State University, the following statutory provisions apply:

For a public school academy authorized by a state public university, enrollment shall be open to all pupils who reside in this state who meet the admission policy. If there are more applications to enroll in the public school academy than there are spaces available, pupils shall be selected to attend using a random selection process. However, a public school academy may give enrollment priority to a sibling of a pupil enrolled in the public school academy. A public school academy shall allow any student who was enrolled in the public school academy in the immediately preceding school year to enroll in the public school academy in the appropriate grade… [Michigan Revised School Code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.504(3)]

State law also allows charter schools to accept students in an approved foreign exchange program.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for the next academic year always begins on the first school day in October and concludes at 4:00 pm on the last Wednesday of February. If the last Wednesday of February is not a school day, open enrollment will close at 4:00 pm on the next school day.

Following the close of open enrollment, if the number of applications exceeds the number of open seats, a random selection lottery determines acceptance. If the number of applications does not exceed the number of open seats, all applicants are accepted for their respective grades.

Lottery

Lotteries will be held for any grade in which the number of applications exceeds the number of openings. Names are randomly selected, by priority grouping, and applicants are accepted based on the order in which they are selected. The lottery continues until all names are drawn. Applicants who are not accepted will be placed on a waiting list in the order their names were drawn.

Priority Group Preferences

The order of priority in which spaces for each grade will be filled will be as follows:

Priority Group #1

Students enrolled for the current school year are automatically re-enrolled unless formally withdrawn. (Students with an Individual Education Plan active on the first day of the following school year are automatically re-enrolled unless formally withdrawn).

Priority Group #2

Siblings of currently enrolled students will be given enrollment priority if an enrollment application form for each sibling is completed and returned on or before 4:00pm on the last Wednesday of February. Sibling preference is defined as children who have at least one common parent/legal guardian. For the purposes of enrollment priority, a parent's children, stepchildren, adopted children, foster children, and same household children, in which a parent or guardian resides, are all considered to be each other's siblings. This preference is not available to applications received after open enrollment has closed.

Child(ren) of a person employed full time at Black River Public School will be given enrollment priority if an enrollment application form for each child is completed and returned on or before 4:00pm on the last Wednesday of February. Employee - child

preference is defined as children where at least one parent or legal guardian meets the requirements as outlined by the employee handbook. This preference is not available to applications received after open enrollment has closed. If space is not available in any grade level for this priority group, a lottery will be performed to determine the order of the sibling wait list.

Priority Group #3
New students accepted prior to the lottery. If the number of applicants for a grade is less than or equal to the number of spaces available for that grade, all new applicants for that grade are accepted and are enrolled prior to the lottery drawing for admissions.

Priority Group #4
Siblings of newly-enrolled students. When, at the close of open enrollment, one sibling is validly accepted into a grade that is not oversubscribed, or is accepted by lottery, any of that child's siblings who have timely applied, may enroll if space is available in their respective grades. If space is not available, they advance to the sibling wait list. This preference is not available to applications received after open enrollment has closed.

Priority Group #5
All remaining applicants. If there are more applicants than spaces available, a random selection lottery will be used to determine the order of those enrolled and wait listed. This preference is not available to applications received after open enrollment has closed.

Priority Group #6
Applicants after the close of open enrollment. For grades that are not oversubscribed at the end of open enrollment, applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the grade is full, at which time further applicants are placed on a wait list. For each grade with a wait list, all applications received will be placed on the wait list.

Foreign Exchange Students
Foreign Exchange students must follow the same enrollment process as detailed in the Admissions Policy. Please understand that Black River Public School is unable to accept Foreign Exchange students who are citizens of the United States that do not reside in Michigan. Foreign Exchange students cannot earn a diploma from Black River Public School.

Kindergarten
For the 2025-26 academic year, if you are applying for kindergarten, your child will need to be 5 years old by September 1, 2025 or as permitted by Section 1147 (3) below. 380.1147

Enrollment of child in kindergarten; age; eligibility; notification. Sec. 1147. (3)

If a child residing in the school district or a child eligible to enroll in and be counted in membership in the school district under section 105 or 105c of the state school aid act of 1979, MCL 388.1705 and 388.1705c, is not 5 years of age on the enrollment eligibility date specified in subsection (2), but will be 5 years of age not later than December 1 of a school year, the parent or legal guardian of that child may enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year in a public school operated by the school district or, for a community district or a school district that does not directly operate schools on its own, in another public school located within the geographic boundaries of the school district if the parent or legal guardian notifies the public school in writing that he or she intends to enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year. A public school that receives this written notification may make a recommendation to the parent or legal guardian of a child described in this subsection that the child is not ready to enroll in kindergarten due to the child's age or other factors. However, regardless of this recommendation, the parent or legal guardian retains the sole discretion to determine whether or not to enroll the child in kindergarten under this subsection.

Admission is Conditional
Applicants are required to fully complete all required enrollment materials and provide all necessary information. This includes, but is not limited to, the enrollment application form, copy of birth certificate, immunization information, and proof of current grade level via grade report or transcript (not applicable for kindergarten applicants). Making an omission of a material fact or a false statement in enrollment application materials may be sufficient cause for denying an applicant consideration for enrollment or for expulsion after enrollment.

Compliance with the Code of Conduct
All students and prospective students must abide by the Black River Public School Student Code of Conduct and are subject to disciplinary action for violations thereof, up to and including expulsion. A prospective student is subject to the all school policies, practices and procedures (and consequences for violations), even before their first day of class.

Equal Educational Opportunity
Black River Public School does not charge tuition and does not discriminate in its

pupil admission policies or practices on the basis of:

a. intellectual ability
b. athletic ability
c. achievement or aptitude measurements
d. handicap or disability, or
e. any other basis not permitted by federal and/or state law.

Some testing may be required to determine the proper placement in a subject area but such tests are administered after a student has been accepted for admission.

THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Black River Public School submitted its 2025-2026 School Improvement Plan to the Michigan Department of Education in September of 2025.

Goal 1: Implement MTSS with fidelity across grades K-5 and support teachers in implementing a comprehensive literacy curriculum in order to increase proficiency by 5% on other assessments by spring of 2027.

To support our literacy goal, we have focused on aligning our curriculum with the science of reading to ensure research-based, effective instruction. Through the implementation of MTSS, we are addressing the needs of all students, providing targeted interventions, and offering differentiated support to help each child progress. These efforts are designed to maintain high proficiency levels and further increase student achievement on state and benchmark assessments.

Goal 2: Implement MTSS with fidelity across grades K-5 and support teachers in implementing a comprehensive math curriculum in order to increase proficiency by 5% on MSTEP Math, STAR Math, and district math benchmark assessments by spring of 2027.

To support our math goal, we have aligned our Montessori math curriculum with state standards to ensure all students receive high-quality Tier 1 instruction. Through the consistent implementation of MTSS, we are providing targeted interventions and supports to meet the diverse needs of students, aiming to increase student outcomes on our state and district assessments.

Goal 3: By June 2026, Black River Elementary will implement an expanded Tier 2 social emotional and behavioral support system in which 100% of students receiving Tier 2 supports have documented progress monitoring, and all Tier 2 interventions are selected and matched to student needs based on a consistent data-based decision-making process.

To support this goal, we have implemented four new Tier 2 behavioral and mental health interventions. A new behavior intervention team meets regularly to review student behavioral data, identify students who meet entrance criteria, and match these students to appropriate interventions. Additional behavioral and intervention data is collected for each of these students, and the intervention team uses this data to monitor progress, adjust interventions, and exit students from interventions when appropriate.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

At Black River Public School, our elementary program embraces the Montessori Method of instruction, with necessary adaptations for standardized testing. This approach is distinct from traditional educational styles that many families may be familiar with. The following key principles reflect our Montessori philosophy:

Mixed Ages: In line with Montessori principles, our classrooms are organized by mixed-age groups—first through third graders and fourth through fifth graders. This arrangement promotes both social and intellectual growth. Younger children observe and learn from their older peers, while older students reinforce their knowledge by taking on leadership roles and helping the younger ones. This tradition of responsibility and collaboration is an essential part of our Montessori community.

Independence: The Montessori Method emphasizes learning at each child's individual pace. This ensures that advanced learners are challenged, while those who may need more time do not feel pressured to keep up. The program is designed to cater to a broad range of developmental needs, allowing students to progress naturally. Our Montessori-trained educators tailor the curriculum to suit each student's unique needs, fostering an environment where children are encouraged to move beyond basic competencies and strive toward higher levels of cognitive development. While foundational skills in language, reading, mathematics, history, and science remain essential, students are inspired to reach their full potential.

Freedom and Responsibility: The Montessori classroom creates a balance between structure and freedom. From day one, students are guided to understand that freedom comes with responsibility. They are provided with numerous constructive choices, gaining the tools to accomplish their goals. Dr. Montessori believed that true freedom is not merely the ability to do whatever one pleases, but the capacity to make informed, beneficial choices and carry them out with a sense of purpose and responsibility.

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

Curriculum information relating to the Montessori expectations can be located on the school website at: https://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/academics/elementary-school-curriculum.

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

School
Black River

	Less than Proficient				Proficient				Star Math Participation			
	Not Proficient		Partially Proficient		Proficient		Advanced		Tested		Not Tested	
Grade	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Grade K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0%	66	100%
Grade 1	13	20%	10	16%	12	19%	29	45%	64	96%	3	4%
Grade 2	20	31%	11	17%	11	17%	23	35%	65	98%	1	2%
Grade 3	23	35%	18	27%	12	18%	13	20%	66	97%	2	3%
Grade 4	20	30%	17	26%	9	14%	20	30%	66	94%	4	6%
Grade 5	25	40%	20	32%	3	5%	15	24%	63	98%	1	2%
All Students Summary	**101**	**31%**	**76**	**23%**	**47**	**15%**	**100**	**31%**	**324**	**81%**	**77**	**19%**

School
Black River

	Less than Proficient				Proficient				Star Reading Participation			
	Not Proficient		Partially Proficient		Proficient		Advanced		Tested		Not Tested	
Grade	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Grade K	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2%	65	98%
Grade 1	10	20%	0	0%	9	18%	30	61%	49	73%	18	27%
Grade 2	16	27%	9	15%	9	15%	25	42%	59	89%	7	11%
Grade 3	15	23%	12	18%	9	14%	29	45%	65	96%	3	4%
Grade 4	13	20%	7	11%	13	20%	33	50%	66	94%	4	6%
Grade 5	12	19%	6	10%	14	22%	31	49%	63	98%	1	2%
All Students Summary	**66**	**22%**	**34**	**11%**	**54**	**18%**	**148**	**49%**	**303**	**76%**	**98**	**24%**

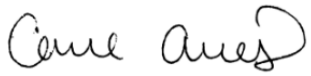
IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

In 2024-2025, 88% of our students were represented by at least one parent during parent-teacher conferences.

In 2023-2024, 83% of our students were represented by at least one parent during parent-teacher conferences.

We are proud of the progress we have made this year and grateful for the partnership of our families and staff in supporting student growth. Together, we continue to grow, learn and strengthen our school community, grounded in our mission of "preparing students for college and life." With this shared purpose guiding our work, we look forward to the year ahead with optimism, confidence and a continued commitment to excellence for all students.

Sincerely,



Carrie Ames
Curriculum Director
Black River Public School