BLACK RIVER
PUBLIC SCHOOL

30 January, 2026

Annual Education Report (AER) School Cover Letter

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 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 Peter Middleton for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: Annual Education Report , 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 Secondary 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 taken into account in redeveloping our School and District Improvement Plans.

State law requires that we also report additional information. <To have this letter meet the state requirements, each school should provide a report for the two most recent years on the following:>

1. 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 2023-24 academic year, if you are applying for kindergarten, your child will need to be 5 years old by September 1, 2023 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.

2. 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. For specific information in support of comprehensive school improvement goals, please consult this report.

Analysis and structure of grades 6-12 ELA curriculum has resulted in a clear and building curriculum aligned to meet and exceed grade level standards. In addition, using collaborative processes and formative assessment, teachers have identified learning targets for students at each grade level to respond to learning loss from prior years. While a 3% increase on standardized testing by 2026 may seem ambitious, BRPS is making progress. Our district level professional development has addressed the plan going forward as a means to mitigate learning loss.

Our 11th Grade EBRW SAT proficiency for (2024-25) 83.8%, is up from 82.7% (2023-24), and 76.6% (2022-23). Our ELA Proficiency has improved 7.2% in 3 years. We are on track to exceed our 3% goal.

Black River's 11th grade SAT mathematics proficiency has improved 6.9% over the last 3 years: 53.7% (2021-22), 46.9% (2022-23), 46.7% (2023-24), 53.8% (2024-25).

Addressing math and reading learning loss is paramount; our district plan is to work aggressively to remediate and bring up performance from the learning loss experienced in 2020-2021. BRPS students showed increased learning loss and we are addressing it with one-year goals as a part of a larger K-12 district structured plan. BRPS uses Connected Mathematics Project (CMP), a math curriculum for students in grades 6–8. It also uses interactive problems and everyday situations to explore mathematical ideas, with a goal of fostering a problem-centered, inquiry-based learning environment. At each grade level, the curriculum covers numbers, algebra, geometry/measurement, probability, and statistics.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Black River Public School's secondary school, grades 6-12, uses a college preparatory framework as a foundational curricular approach to "prepare students for college and life." Additionally, Black River's high school students have opportunities to dual enroll, and take Advanced Placement courses for college credit.

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

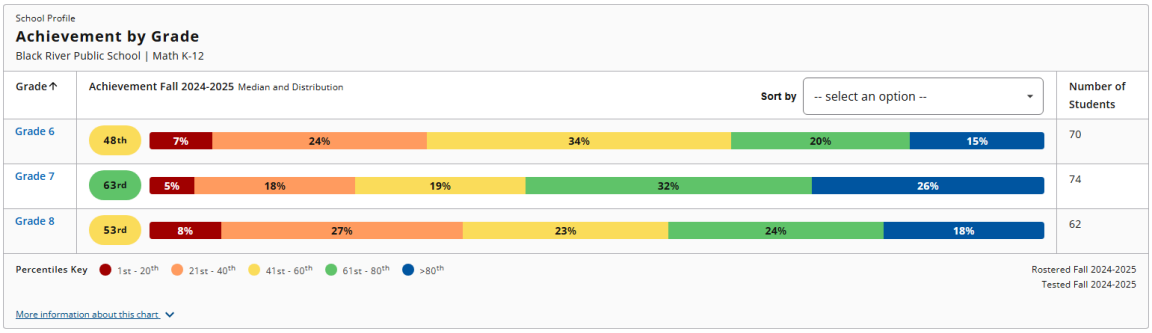
The BRPS middle school curriculum is aligned, with a shared curricular focus in each grade level's history, English and visual arts curriculum; for example, 6th grade focuses on Africa/Egypt, 7th grade Asia, India, Australia and the Middle East, and 8th grade uses an Early European focus. This rich curriculum, enhanced with experiential and project-based learning, does not align without variance from the state's model—but students have performed well on standardized testing for decades.

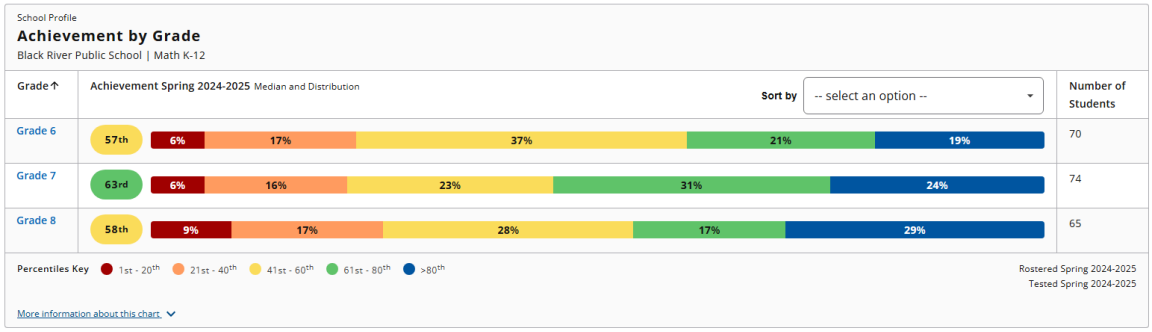
Curriculum information relating to secondary expectations (grades 6-12) can be located on the school website:

https://www.blackriverpublicschool.org/academics/program-of-study

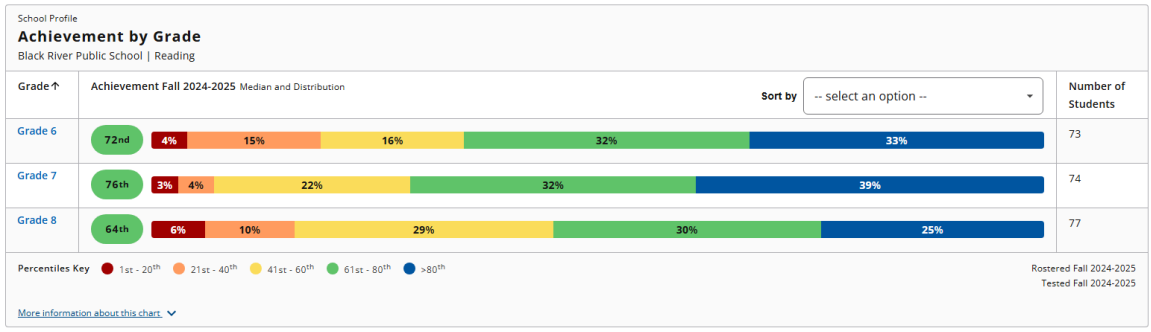
5. The Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Any Local Competency Tests or Nationally Normed Achievement Tests

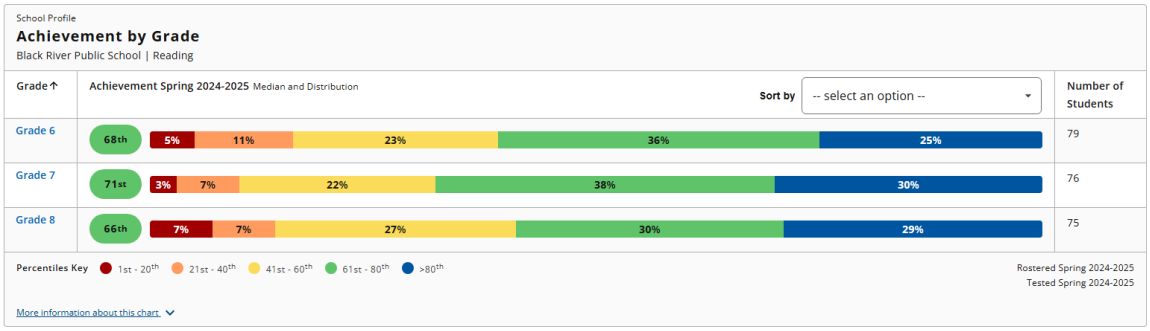
NWEA: MS Math Spring/Fall 2024-25





NWEA: MS ELA Spring/Fall 2024-25





Nationally Normed Achievement Tests: MSTEP, PSAT, and SAT

Assessment Subject	Grade Level Content	Number Students Advanced or Proficient	Number Advanced	Number Proficient	Number Partially Proficient	Number Not Proficient	Partially or Not Proficient	Number Assessed
English Language Arts	6th Grade Content	49	17	32	20	10	30	79
English Language Arts	7th Grade Content	54	17	37	14	8	22	76
Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing	8th Grade Content	65	53	12	4	6	10	75

Assessment Subject	Grade Level Content	Number Students Advanced or Proficient	Number Advanced	Number Proficient	Number Partially Proficient	Number Not Proficient	Partially or Not Proficient	Number Assessed
Mathematics Overall	6th Grade Content	24	13	11	35	20	55	79
Mathematics Overall	7th Grade Content	39	15	24	21	16	37	76
Mathematics Overall	8th Grade Content	34	17	17	33	8	41	75

Student Type/Crosstab	Mean SAT Score	Benchmark	Met or Exceeded	% Met or Exceeded	Did Not Meet	% Did Not Meet	Number Assessed
All Students	536.0	530	43	53.8%	37	46.3%	80
All Students	577.3	480	67	83.8%	13	16.3%	80
All Students	1113.3	N/A	42	52.5%	38	47.5%	80

6. The Number and Percent of Students Represented by Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences

In 2024-2025, 63.1% or 351 students were represented by at least one parent during parent/teacher conferences.

7. High Schools Report the Following:

a. **The Number and Percent of Postsecondary Enrollments (Dual Enrollment)**

15 Dual enrolled students, or 4.5% of high school students

b. **The Number of College Equivalent Courses Offered (AP/IB)**

23 Advanced Placement Courses offered in 2024-25

c. **The Number and Percentage of Students Enrolled in College Equivalent Courses (AP/IB)**

138 students enrolled in Advanced Placement, 289 AP Exams

d. **The Number and Percentage of Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit**

117 students, or 84.78%, scored a 3, 4, or 5 on an AP Exam

This year will certainly be exciting for the students, faculty, and parents of Black River Public School. We anticipate serving students and families in the best possible ways and look forward to working together to meet the mission of our school: "Preparing students for college and life."

Sincerely,



Peter Middleton, MFA, EdS
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