



# Grand Blanc West Middle School

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January 2026,

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2024-2025 educational progress for Grand Blanc West Middle 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 Diana Balbaugh, Grand Blanc West Middle School Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site, or you may review a copy in the main office of Grand Blanc West Middle School:

- Grand Blanc Middle School West
  - <https://bit.ly/4r2f1kl>

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.

Grand Blanc West Middle School has not been given one of these labels.

We take pride in the steadfast dedication shown by our families and staff as they tackle diverse challenges to effectively address the needs of our student body. The staff at Grand Blanc West Middle School employs state and local assessments to monitor student progress, intervening as necessary. To cater to the unique needs of each student, our staff engages in ongoing professional development, covering various areas such as technology usage, family engagement, Social & Emotional Learning,

MTSS/Intervention, and Belonging, Engagement & Collaboration Practices, among others. The school remains committed to making progress in all state-tested subject areas, as assessed by the M-STEP in Genesee County. Notably, students consistently surpass the state average in standardized state tests. Data-driven instruction guides us, leading to after-school programming, targeted intervention elective classes, and small group support in mathematics, reading, and writing. Furthermore, our commitment extends to incorporating culturally responsive teaching, mindfulness, character education, and community engagement into our mission and daily practices. These endeavors stem directly from the insights gained through data, emphasizing our focus on nurturing the "whole child."

## **1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

Resident students attend the school in the attendance area of the Grand Blanc Community School District in which they reside. The Grand Blanc Community School District does have a policy and a process for School of Choice requests. Copies of this policy and procedures are available through the Central Administration Office.

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

As a district we are proud of our robust Strategic Plan, updated by our steering committee, which was developed by district and community stakeholders in 2023. The Strategic Plan undergoes a comprehensive rewrite and revision process that takes place every five years, and is one of the reasons our district continues to progressively lead from the front. West Middle School has continuously reviewed and revised our School Improvement Plan based on our review of data and student needs. Our professional learning communities use teacher/district assessments, M-STEP, NWEA results, and other data to determine student's individual needs. Teachers utilize best practices and targeted instruction to ensure all students are making progress and achieving their personal benchmarks. Additionally, we utilize MICIP, Michigan's Integrated Continuous Improvement Process, as a pathway to improve student outcomes by assessing whole child needs. We write specific goals related to assessing and monitoring student's mental and social health, along with academic achievement. Our efforts were related to closing the achievement gap in math, reading, writing, science, and social studies, as well as addressing school culture and social-emotional learning for all students.

## **3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL**

Grand Blanc Community Schools offers students the opportunity to apply for admission to the Bobcat Innovation In-Person Program (formerly Perry Innovation Center), a 2nd-8th Grade Lower and Upper School. The school format affords opportunities to extend the regular elementary and middle school curriculum in a purpose-based and blended learning environment. However, in the strides our district has made with

technology saturation and best practices, all of our buildings are utilizing these innovative strategies to meet the needs of our learners.

In response to increased demand for exclusively online teaching and learning, Grand Blanc Community Schools established the Bobcat Innovation Virtual Program (previously Bobcat Virtual). This is an online educational program established for families with students in grades K-12 looking for a robust, fully virtual option for their child(ren). Bobcat Innovation Virtual classes are facilitated by our Grand Blanc Community Schools' own certified teachers. The classes are fully endorsed, accredited, and supported by the Grand Blanc Community School district. If they choose to do so, students who attend Bobcat Innovation Virtual may participate in extracurricular activities including athletics.

To meet the needs of families wanting even more flexibility of programming, Grand Blanc Community Schools developed and established the Bobcat Innovation Hybrid Program. This program was created at the 2nd-5th grade level for the 24-25 school year. The Hybrid Program utilizes the same virtual courses, curriculum, and teachers that our virtual program offers. Students work through the curriculum from home on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, but attend school in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Hybrid students may also participate in extracurricular activities including athletics. 6th-12th grade students also will have a hybrid option as they can take both virtual, and in-person classes.

#### **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 district has worked diligently to incorporate the state core curriculum, including the Common Core Standards for ELA and Math, along with the Michigan standards and benchmarks, in all areas of the district's curriculum offerings. Core curriculum areas necessitating such attention include: Social Studies, Science, Health, Physical Education, World Languages and Technology. The district's core curriculum is available for review at the district's administration building or on our district web site under "For Parents and Guardians" and then "Curriculum Information."

<https://www.gbcs.org/our-district/departments/curriculum>

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

- Grand Blanc Middle School West
  - <https://bit.ly/4r2f1kl>

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

## **2024 Fall Conferences – 52% Attendance Rate**

## **2025 Spring Conferences – 39% Attendance Rate**

- **Celebration of Learning Initiatives**

There is much to celebrate at West Middle School! The resilience shown by our students, families, and staff during challenging times reflects the strength of our community's mindfulness and support for one another. On behalf of West Middle School, I want to thank our entire school community for your continued dedication to our mission of continuous growth and improvement. In addition to celebrating our successes, we are currently engaged in multiple curriculum studies across our core subject areas, ensuring our instructional practices remain aligned to student needs and best practices.

Alongside our focus on academic excellence, we remain committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience for every student. Our schoolwide goals emphasize creating a welcoming and inclusive environment that reflects the diverse backgrounds and experiences of our community. This work includes thoughtful representation through our staff, visual displays, curriculum, and instructional content so that all students can see themselves reflected in our school. We have also continued to strengthen student engagement by offering celebrations and assemblies that recognize and motivate students for achievements in areas such as attendance, academics, and positive behavior.

Sincerely,

Diana Balbaugh, Principal  
Grand Blanc West Middle School