

February 20, 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 Berrien Springs Discovery Academy. 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 Chiquita Adams, Director of On-Campus Non-Traditional Programs, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website, <https://bit.ly/4r2eUFU>, 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.

We are committed to enhancing students' educational journeys at Discovery Academy, and are happy to share our progress and initiatives. Boosting graduation and Michigan Merit Exam participation rates is a top priority for our dedicated staff. To support our students, we offer attendance and exam participation incentives, as well as more flexible options such as online instruction from home. Discovery Academy boasts an impressive graduation rate of approximately 80%, ranking among the highest for Alternative Education programs in Michigan. In recent years, we've focused on aligning our curriculum and assessments with the district's essential standards, contributing to ongoing improvements in student achievement.

Additionally, our commitment to student success includes a robust employment readiness program.



State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

In the process of enrolling students at Discovery Academy, each student undergoes a comprehensive interview conducted by our staff and their transcripts are meticulously reviewed. During this interview we are attempting to ascertain if Discovery Academy is the best placement for the student. Following this assessment, if our staff, the student and student's family mutually agree that Discovery Academy represents the most fitting educational environment, classes are assigned based on the specific credits required for graduation. Discovery Academy serves students in grades 9-12.

2. The Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

The annual revision of the school improvement plan is facilitated through the district MICIP. Our comprehensive approach to monitoring student growth and achievement involves utilizing NWEA benchmarking during the fall and spring., aligning with state testing requirements. Emphasizing the significance of course completion and graduation rates, we meticulously track and analyze these metrics. Notably, our current school plan incorporates an evaluation framework to assess students; success in meeting district essential standards, with particular focus on enhancing support for students enrolled in math courses.

3. A Brief Description of Each Specialized School

Beyond the conventional grade 9-12 program at Discovery Academy, our school district is committed to providing diverse educational alternatives and opportunities tailored to meet the unique needs of students. Specifically designed for students with disabilities, specialized schools play a vital role in expanding the continuum of educational services available within our district. Also within Discovery Academy, after school credit recovery is offered Monday through Thursday to enable students to earn missing credits. In addition, our school houses language acquisition services open to anyone in the community during the evening hours.

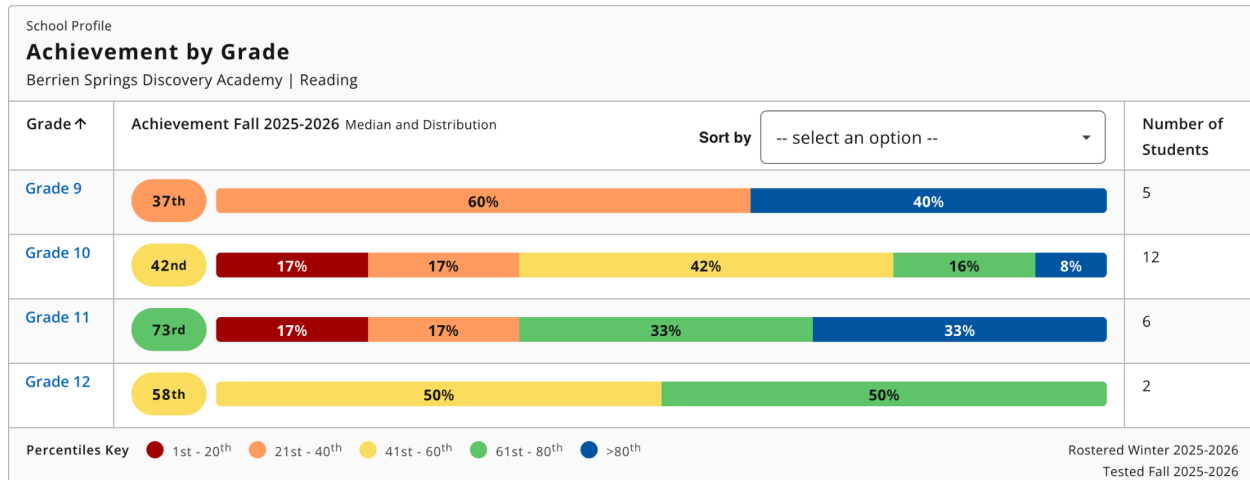
Berrien Springs has meticulously aligned its curriculum with the state's model curriculum, ensuring no discernible variances. The adoption of Common Core State Standards, founded on National Standards and endorsed by the Michigan Department of Education, serves as the foundation for our



educational framework. These standards are accessible on the MDE website at <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/academic-standards>. At all levels, our curriculum is structured in accordance with these standards. For those seeking detailed insights into our courses, Curriculum Guides for all disciplines can be obtained upon request from the school director or district curriculum director.

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

In addition to mandated state testing, students at Berrien Springs Discovery Academy undergo the NWEA benchmark test in both mathematics and reading. The outcomes of this local assessment for the previous two years are provided below. Comprehensive state testing information can be accessed in the AER report, which is available through the MiSchoolData website linked above.





School Profile

Achievement by Grade

Berrien Springs Discovery Academy | Math K-12

Grade ↑	Achievement Fall 2025-2026 Median and Distribution	Sort by -- select an option --	Number of Students
Grade 9	35th 43% 14% 14% 14% 15%		7
Grade 10	38th 17% 42% 25% 8% 8%		12
Grade 11	69th 17% 17% 66%		6
Grade 12	46th 50% 50%		2
Percentiles Key 1st - 20th 21st - 40th 41st - 60th 61st - 80th >80th			Rostered Winter 2025-2026 Tested Fall 2025-2026

School Profile

Achievement by Grade

Berrien Springs Discovery Academy | Reading

Grade ↑	Achievement Fall 2024-2025 Median and Distribution	Sort by -- select an option --	Number of Students
Grade 9	35th 33% 33% 34%		3
Grade 10	35th 38% 12% 25% 12% 13%		8
Grade 11	35th 75% 25%		4
Grade 12	62nd 50% 50%		2
Percentiles Key 1st - 20th 21st - 40th 41st - 60th 61st - 80th >80th			Rostered Winter 2025-2026 Tested Fall 2024-2025

School Profile

Achievement by Grade

Berrien Springs Discovery Academy | Math K-12

Grade ↑	Achievement Fall 2024-2025 Median and Distribution	Sort by -- select an option --	Number of Students
Grade 9	22nd 34% 33% 33%		3
Grade 10	40th 25% 25% 25% 25%		8
Grade 11	40th 14% 43% 14% 29%		7
Grade 12	58th 50% 50%		2
Percentiles Key 1st - 20th 21st - 40th 41st - 60th 61st - 80th >80th			Rostered Winter 2025-2026 Tested Fall 2024-2025



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

Discovery Academy students and parents are contacted weekly by mentor teachers to give real time progress and set short term goals. Due to this fact, only 10% of Discovery families attend parent teacher conferences.

7. For high schools, only, also report on the following:

- a. The Number and Percent of Postsecondary Enrollments (Dual Enrollment)**
- b. The Number of College Equivalent Courses Offered (AP/IB)**
- c. The Number and Percentage of Students Enrolled in College Equivalent Courses (AP/IB)**
- d. The Number and Percentage of Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit**

Berrien Springs Public Schools afford students the prospect of participating in postsecondary or dual enrollment courses at nearby colleges and universities. Notably, in 2024-25, approximately 8% of students availed themselves of these opportunities, a slight increase from the preceding school year. In both 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years students have continued to enroll in courses post graduation. Currently, our educational offerings do not include college equivalent courses such as AP or IB.

Special Education AER **2025-2026 School Year**

Resident students (along with students accepted through the schools of choice process) may qualify and have a need for special education programs and/or services. The district is continuing to develop their Multi-Tier Systems of Supports (MTSS) model, providing general education options for students needing additional support through interventions and monitoring their progress over time. For those students who are unable to demonstrate progress with significant interventions, students being referred for special education programming/services may begin this process through a request for an evaluation or Child Study Team (CST) meeting. Should a student qualify for special education programs and/or services under one of the thirteen eligibility areas in Michigan, a team of individuals will develop an Individualized Education Program (IEP) to help assist the child progress within the



general education setting. Programming and services offered within the district for students are as follows-

A. Resource Room Services for Local Special Education Students

Part of the IEP process includes the determination of appropriate aids, supplementary services, accommodations, and modifications for success in general education. Current special education programs within the district include, but are not limited to, Elementary and Secondary Resource Rooms. Students follow a general education curriculum with the Common Core State Standards. There are two models utilized within Berrien Springs Public Schools, one in which classroom instruction is provided by a general education teacher along with interactive co-teaching from a special education teacher; the second model is for students determined to need more direct instruction for needs outlined within their IEP. Under this model, students may receive programming/services that pull them out of the general education classroom for a set amount of time dictated by their IEP. At the elementary level, approximately fifty-five students receive Elementary Resource Room programming; seventy-nine secondary students receive Secondary Resource Room programming.

B. Center-Based Special Education Programs

Berrien Springs hosts several center-based programs for Berrien County RESA. These programs are housed in Berrien Springs and operated by Berrien Springs Public Schools. The funding comes through federal, state and Berrien RESA sources. Many of the students in these programs are not residents of Berrien Springs, but are able to take advantage of these center programs through the IEP (Individual Educational Program) process in conjunction with their resident district. Students are placed in the program through an IEP team composed of their local district and Berrien RESA diagnostic and educational staff. Transportation to and from Berrien Springs is provided through the student's resident district. These programs include:

1. Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHH) Classrooms, Teacher Consultant Services, Audiological Services:

Students with hearing impairments have been part of Berrien Springs Public Schools for approximately 60 years. Cass County contracts services through Berrien RESA allowing students to be IEP placed from



either Cass or Berrien counties. Babies are frequently identified at birth and start receiving intervention services at a very early age with teacher consultants seeing families in their natural home environment. Classroom services are available starting at preschool. These students may also participate in general education classes throughout their school-day depending on the student's individualized education program. Approximately thirteen Berrien and Cass County students receive direct services in the classroom program; one student is a resident of Berrien Springs.

Many students who are Deaf or hard of hearing function very well in their home districts while receiving direct or indirect assistance from a teacher consultant and/or audiologist

for equipment purposes. Approximately 140 children from Berrien County and 25 children from Cass County are patients of the Hearing Center. Approximately 145 children receive equipment services (IFSP, IEP, and 504) in both counties. Currently, 11 students are provided with DHH programming in the center-based program (preschool-5th grade).

Two educational audiologists provide audiological services and equipment management for students with identified hearing loss through our Hearing Center for students in Berrien, Cass, and Saint Joseph counties. They also provide diagnostic information for children with diagnosed, fluctuating, suspected or possible hearing losses. They work with physicians, the Health Department, families, Build up Michigan, Early On, and Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) to diagnose children as soon as possible and get amplification and intervention started. The team of audiologists work with over 500 students each year.

2. Severe Language Impaired Preschool Program:

Students in the SLI preschool room receive instruction from a highly qualified teacher having endorsements in Elementary Education, speech and language impairments, and who is also a licensed speech and language pathologist. A maximum of 15 students ages three to six years of age must meet specific requirements to be placed into this county-based program. During the 2025-2026 school year, three (3)



Berrien Springs resident students are enrolled in this classroom with a total of 15 students overall from Berrien county.

3. Middle School Mildly Cognitively Impaired Classroom:

The district operates one county-wide classroom at Berrien Springs Middle School for students functioning with mild cognitive impairments. The program incorporates reading, writing, and vocabulary with social studies and science topics, following the Extended Grade Level Content Expectations from Michigan Department of Education. Currently, nineteen students are being serviced within these county classrooms. This school year, five (5) students considered to be Berrien Springs resident students are IEP placed in these rooms.

4. High School Mildly Cognitively Impaired Classroom:

A county-wide classroom for students functioning with a mild cognitive impairment is also housed within the high school and taught by a teacher of the cognitively impaired. The students work through a series of objectives that are linked to the Extended Grade Level Content Expectations and daily living skills for transition to post-secondary goals. Students also receive instruction through the use of the Life Centered Curriculum and

earn a Seal of Employability and certificate of completion upon completion of the program. This program also includes pre-vocational and vocational experiences. There are a total of seventeen students enrolled in the classroom presently, with eight students being Berrien Springs residents.

C. Ancillary Services:

Ancillary services are available for students who qualify. These services may include speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, or consultation from service providers such as vision, orientation & mobility, or assistive technology consultants.

Approximately 189 students receive speech and language services from Berrien Springs speech and language pathologists. Thirty-eight students receive OT and/or PT services within Berrien Springs buildings from Berrien RESA OT/PTs.



D. Build Up Michigan:

Build Up Michigan: Berrien Springs provides both evaluations and services for resident students ages three-five through the Build Up Michigan program. Evaluation plans determined for children through Build Up Michigan referrals are considered full and individual evaluations. Any programs/services offered are developed with the IEP planning team and evaluation team to meet the unique needs of each student.

E. Specialized Programs for Students Available Outside of Berrien Springs District:

Some students need programs that are not offered within the district. The IEP process is used to make this determination and to place these students in appropriate programs that offer the specialized instruction necessary to meet their goals and objectives while considering every student's least restrictive environment. Transportation is provided for these students. These programs, and the current number of resident students served in these programs include:

Program Name	Program Type	Operated by/Location	Number of BSPS Residents Placed
Blossomland Learning Center	MOCI & SXI (PS-26)	Berrien RESA	17
Lighthouse Education Center	ASD (K-26)	Berrien RESA (LEC and Satellite RoomsI)	9
Lighthouse Education Center	EI (K-26)	LEC	4
Northside	ECSE (ages 3-5)	Niles Community Schools	2
Southside/Ballard Elementary	EI (K-26)	Niles Community Schools	4
Howard Ellis Elementary	MICI (K-2nd)	Niles Community Schools	0
Stewart Elementary/Hollywood Elementary	MICI (K-5th)	Lakeshore Public Schools	3



Watervliet North	MICI (3rd-5th)	Watervliet Public Schools	0
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Juvenile Center, Berrien Springs, Michigan

The juvenile center has programming for students with disabilities that are court placed, for an amount of time determined by a judge, with the goal being eventual re-integration into the resident district's educational system. Any students currently placed at the juvenile center are considered Berrien Springs residents during their placement there and the district is involved in their special education planning and team.

The staff at Discovery Academy believes that we are on track to provide excellent 21st century programming and academic opportunities that will allow all of our students to achieve success through various career pathways. As represented in our district profile, Berrien Springs is a district of choice because we are a district of choices. Students and families who choose to become a part of the Discovery Academy family can be assured that our highly qualified staff effectively utilize teaching strategies that are research and evidence based. Additionally, while leveraging available technology and innovative programming, we continue to provide excellent learning opportunities that lead to student success.

Sincerely,

Chiquita Adams

Chiquita Adams

Director, On-Campus Non-Traditional Programs

Berrien Springs Discovery Academy

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