



**VERONA ELEMENTARY  
825 CAPITAL AVE NE  
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017  
269-965-9710**

## **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

January 17, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2022-23 educational progress for Verona Elementary. 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 Rhonda Washington, principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting [THIS](#) website, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2023-24 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 subgroup in 2022-23. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup 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 or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Verona Elementary is considered a CSI School. Key challenges include student attendance, teacher training, and students entering our school with less academic proficiency than would be expected of a typical third-fifth grade student. Additionally, we have many students that are dealing with issues at home including many students who are considered homeless or in foster care. In order to meet the needs of these (and all students) Verona has implemented key initiatives in the areas of attendance, academic achievement in literacy, and teacher support and coaching.

Verona Elementary is working hard to increase attendance and improve scores for our 3rd-5th grade students. Some of the initiatives we are working on include:

- Attendance campaign for classrooms and for individual students, with prizes given to students who come to school for a consecutive amount of days.
- Additional RTI/small group instruction is offered for our students who are in the bottom 30%.
- Literacy Specialist and Title 1 tutors provide additional support for identified students in Reading
- Focus on phonics instruction incorporating high engagement/explicit instruction techniques for students who are learning to read
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) meet weekly at all grade levels to analyze student achievement data and to adjust/develop best teaching and intervention strategies based on student data outcome
- 120-minute Literacy blocks and 75-minute Math blocks are protected and uninterrupted daily for all classrooms

State law requires that we also report additional information.

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

Students who attend Verona Elementary are assigned to our school by where they reside. Boundaries are set and can be reviewed by calling the school secretary at (269) 965-9710.

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

At Verona Elementary, we have an extensive school improvement plan. We are in year two of the MiCip plan with a focus on Literacy, literacy intervention, and have coaching. We continue to work to improve the education that our students receive. Regular meetings are held with staff members, parents and interested community stakeholders to discuss data, and upcoming changes. Our Instructional Leadership Team and our Professional Learning Communities are used to drive our School Improvement process.

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

Verona serves students in grades 3-5 with 174 students enrolled. We focus on the four core curricular areas, (Math, Reading/Writing, Science and Social Studies) and have many extra-curricular areas taught as well, including Physical Education, Art and Music. We have two Special Education teachers for children who qualify for services, as well as an Instructional Coach for teachers, a Behavior Interventionist, a school nurse, and a Speech pathologist. Verona has one EL teacher and two ELL tutors and three Bearcat Coaches for support. We also have Grace Health counseling office in our building as well as a Communities in Schools office to help support children and families in need.

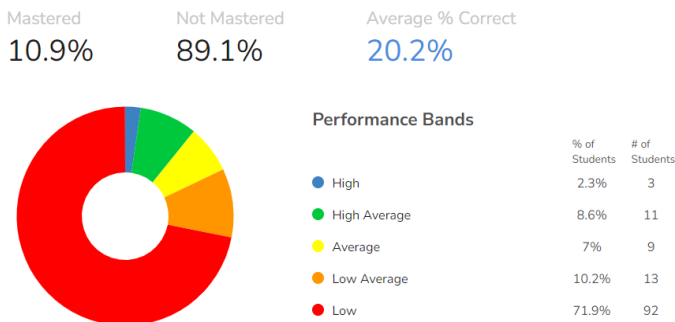
**4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL**

Verona's core curriculum and curriculum guides can be accessed by requesting copies from the school's office. Battle Creek Public Schools' curriculum is aligned with Michigan's Common Core Curriculum. Work continues to fully align the curriculum with the new national Common Core Standards. Curriculum maps and common classroom assessments are being developed to provide teachers with consistent expectations to monitor student achievement. The district continues to focus on the Four A's of curriculum work: Alignment with the Standards and Benchmarks/Grade Level Content Expectations; Articulation between grade levels and core areas/courses; Assessment measures that consistently gauge student achievement levels; and Accountability in teaching the written curriculum. Teachers are actively involved in the curriculum development process and provide valuable feedback as we continue to focus on high levels of academic achievement for all students.

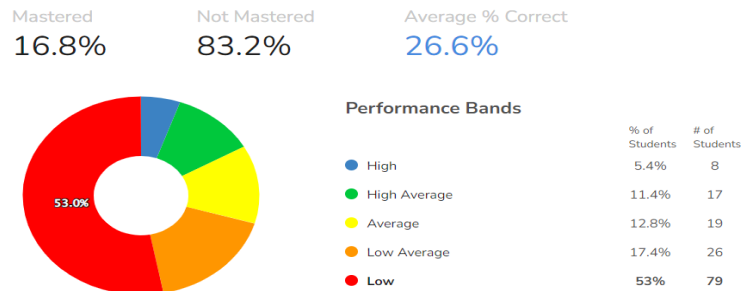
**5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS**

**Verona Elementary NWEA Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Data**

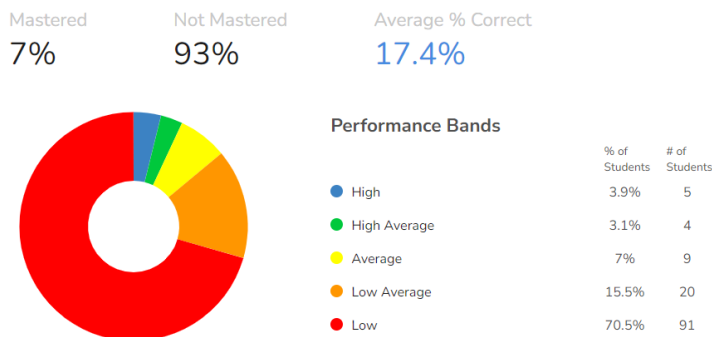
**Fall ELA data (all students)**



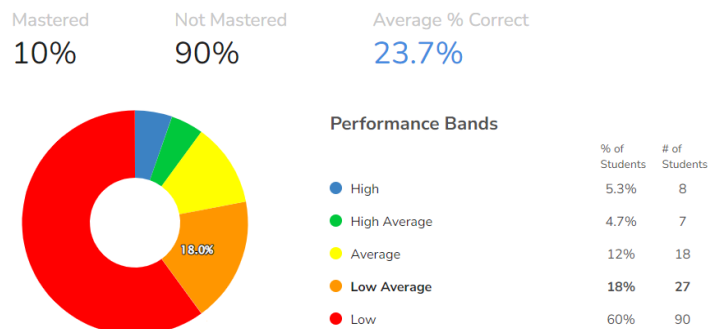
**Spring ELA data (all students)**



**Fall Math data (all students)**



**Spring Math Data (all students)**



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

- a. Verona Elementary has Parent/Teacher conferences in the fall and in the spring. Conference attendance averages 85% in the fall and 74% in the spring. These percentages represent the number of students who had at least one parent attend conferences at Verona.

At Verona Elementary School, we believe that a quality education is the foundation for future success. Our goal is for every Verona student, no matter their race, income or background, to graduate ready for college or prepared to start their career. With our dedicated and caring staff and school and community partners working together with parents and caregivers, we will continue to grow and help students reach their goals and dreams.

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Sincerely,

Rhonda L. Washington  
Principal  
Verona Elementary