



TRI COUNTY AREA SCHOOLS Educational Service Center

RYAN BILLER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter Tri County Middle School

February 17, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for Tri County 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 Principal Jessica Kurtz for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: <https://www.tricountyschools.com>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2024-25 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 2023-24. 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, had a graduation rate at or below 67%, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school **has not** been given one of these labels.

Tri County Middle School is dedicated to addressing the needs of every student on a daily basis. However, both students and staff encounter various challenges. Many students experience social and emotional difficulties stemming from multiple factors. To alleviate these hardships, our staff focuses on social work and counseling, and we have a robust team to help overcome these challenges with students. Tri County Middle School also works diligently to foster positive relationships with students. Additionally, our school continues to confront learning gaps resulting from COVID-19 and the significant loss of in-person instructional time.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Tri County Area Schools (TCAS) has K-5, 6-8, and 9-12 school buildings. Students in the district attend the appropriate building for their grade level, according to geographic boundaries, and school of choice requests.

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

TCAS reviews the school improvement plan through a yearly process that is guided by a belief in shared ownership between school administration, staff, and our community. At the district and building level, leadership teams continue to work on activities that focus on raising student achievement and student participation in curricular and extracurricular activities. At Tri County Middle School, these efforts remain tied to areas of curriculum, assessment, instruction and providing opportunities for students to participate in activities. Copies of our school improvement plan for previous years can be accessed on our website.

3. *A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL*

While the district does not offer a specialized school, we continue to maintain special classes of physical education, band, choir, art, woodshop, and STEM.

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*

A copy of the core curriculum may be obtained by contacting each building office. The core curriculum includes essential standards, pacing guides, and units of study. The core curriculum is implemented by each teacher, with support from the building principal. The curriculum is aligned to the Michigan content standards. Variations to the curriculum may exist for personal curriculum, special education or areas where state flexibility is allowed.

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

All Tri County Middle School 6th and 7th grade students take the M-STEP test in ELA and Math, while the 8th grade takes the M-STEP in Science and Social Studies. This data helps us see how our students compare to others around the state, the rate of students' academic growth, and which students may need more support or challenge.

6th grade students decreased the gap in ELA when comparing their proficiency scores to that of the state proficiency scores. In 2022-2023, there was a 14.2% gap in proficiency in ELA. In 2023-2024, that gap reduced to 10.2% with 27.3% scoring proficient. In Math the 2022-2023 gap increased from 4.6 % to 8.5% in 2023-2024 with 22.5% scoring proficient.

7th grade students decreased the gap in Math when comparing their proficiency scores to that of the state proficiency scores. In 2022-2023, there was a 8.3% gap in proficiency in Math. In 2023-2024, that gap reduced to 4.1% with 28% scoring proficient. In 2022-2023 there was a 9.6% gap in proficiency in ELA. In 2023-2024 that gap increased to 21.7 with 16% scoring proficient.

8th grade students increased the gap in Science when comparing their proficiency scores to that of the state proficiency scores. In 2022-2023, there was a 1.5% gap in proficiency in Science. In 2023-2024 that gap increased to 5.5% with 33.3% scoring proficient. In Social Studies, there was a slight increase in the gap from 3.3% in 2022-2023 to 3.8% in 2023-2024 with 25.9% scoring proficient.

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

Fall of 2023 - 2024

6th grade	71 parents = 53%
7th grade	59 parents = 47%
8th grade	61 parents = 54%
Total	191 parents = 52%

Fall of 2024 - 2025

6th grade	73 parents = 56%
7th grade	54 parents = 41%
8th grade	50 parents = 42%
Total	177 parents = 46%

Tri County Middle School is committed to empowering our students to become leaders both in the classroom and the community. Our school prioritizes fostering lifelong learning through a continuous growth process that evolves year after year. By collaborating with parents, students, staff, and the broader community, we can effectively fulfill our mission to educate, encourage, and empower our students.

Sincerely,
 Jessica Kurtz, Principal
 Tri County Middle School