



February 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 Lakes Elementary 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 Matt Zokoe, principal at Lakes Elementary School, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following link: [Lakes Elementary School's Academic Educational Report](#) 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 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. Lakes Elementary School was not given a label.

Lakes continues to improve student learning by demonstrating growth in both ELA and Math proficiency from the 2023 testing to the 2024 testing on the M-STEP assessment. To support students needing additional help in the area of reading, Lakes provides tier 3 targeted reading interventions five days a week, focusing on foundational skills for students who are missing reading skills. Lakes, along with the RPS district, have adopted the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum to ensure consistent, high-quality tier 1 literacy instruction for all students. Lakes teachers provide a minimum of 90 to 120 minutes of daily reading instruction in both reading skills and highly engaging reading knowledge. Lakes teachers also provide a minimum of 60 minutes of direct tier 1 math instruction daily. Lakes teachers collaborate in grade-level professional learning communities to analyze student data, differentiate instruction, and implement tiered support strategies, ensuring every student thrives.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. Students are enrolled in Rockford Public Schools via a centralized, online enrollment system. Upon enrollment, students are placed into the appropriate building based on their home address, and then placed into the appropriate grade level and classroom based on previous placement, test scores and team discussion.

2. All elementary and secondary schools in RPS participate in strategic planning and goal setting. The primary purpose of the planning is to increase student learning for every student. The [RPS MICIP Plan](#) provides initiative focus for each building and the goals also align with priorities identified in the [RAMS XII Strategic Plan](#). Named FAST Goals, the building progress monitors evidence towards meeting benchmarks three times per year.
3. Lakes Elementary School fosters academic growth, creativity, and community for the Rockford Public Schools students in Kindergarten through Fifth grades.
4. If you would like to access a copy of the core curriculum, a description of its implementation, and an explanation of the variances from the state's model, please contact Matt Zokoe, Lakes Elementary School principal.
5. Lakes Elementary School's national percentile achievement results on Fall NWEA benchmark assessments for 2023 and 2024 are as follows:
 - Fall 2023 - NWEA Math 81%, NWEA Reading 84%
 - Fall 2024 - NWEA Math 78%, NWEA Reading 87%
6. The parent/guardian teacher conference attendance percentage for the previous two school years at Lakes Elementary School are listed below:
 - 2022-2023 - 98%
 - 2023-2024 - 97%

Lakes Elementary makes a significant positive impact on the Rockford School Community. Increasingly, the student learning-focused initiatives, including aligning with the Professional Learning Communities and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support beliefs and structure continue to shape a student learning trend that is increasing. Lakes Elementary is proud to partner with its families and together prepare students for their next steps in life.

Sincerely,



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