



# LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY

January 26, 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 Lighthouse Academy. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Dr. Heidi Cate, Superintendent, for assistance.

The district AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: <https://bit.ly/3KOZvcK> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. Each school will also be communicating their own AER to parents directly.

These reports contain the following information:

## **School Accountability Data**

- Includes information on schools' performance on various measures such as student proficiency and growth on state assessments, graduation, and attendance rates. Performance is measured on 0-100 index scales
- Reports schools identified under three federally required categories for further support: Comprehensive Support and Improvement, Targeted Support and Improvement, and Additional Targeted Support

## **Student Assessment Data**

- Includes the following three assessments: M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), MI-Access (Alternate Assessment), and College Board SAT
- Presents assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and MI-Access science for grades 5, 8, and 11, compared to state averages for all students as well as subgroups of students

## **National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Data**

- Provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8

### **Educator Qualification Data**

- Identifies the number and percentage of inexperienced teachers, principals, and other school leaders
- Reports teachers who are teaching with emergency or provisional credentials
- Includes teachers who are not teaching in the subject or field for which they are certified

### **Civil Rights Data**

- Provides information on school quality, climate, and safety

Please review the table below listing our schools. 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.

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Status Label</b>	<b>Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement</b>
Lighthouse Academy South campus	CSI	Graduation rates, state assessment proficiency, and assessment participation

1. Our enrollment comes from a referral process of detention centers, residential child caring institutions, and, from the community, suspended, expelled, court-placed, as well as IEP-placed students.
2. The district completed the reauthorization process with Ferris State University, its authorizer, and reaccreditation through Cognia in the 2024-25 school year. A new District Improvement Plan was written integrating in the strengths and growth areas identified through this process. The plan covers 2025-2032 and focuses on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support-Academics, Whole Child supports, Staff

Recruitment and Retention, Student Engagement, Assessment Participation, and Graduation rates.

3. All Lighthouse campuses are focused on students meeting objectives which align with state standards as well as on credit recovery. Special education services are also provided as needed and within the guidelines of meeting the safety rules and regulations of the facilities.

4. Our core curriculum meets the minimum state requirements for high school graduation. A copy of our courses is offered in our handbook which is given at enrollment or can be requested at the school office. The annual education report is also available through our website or a hard copy is in our school office

5. Lighthouse schools use standardized testing for students to determine where they are scoring in comparison to the state average. Using the data from the SAT, MSTEP, and WorkKeys tests as well as the NWEA Map tests for students who are coming from or returning to a Lighthouse site. In all categories the Lighthouse students fall below the state average. The data is periodically reviewed in order to make necessary changes to the program in order to improve student achievement.

6. We hold parent teacher conferences at parent request or community partner request. Our schools are in constant contact with case workers and court workers, therefore all students participate in a form of parent teacher conferences.

7. Lighthouse Academy students are not normally able to be dually enrolled, however, if a student meets the necessary requirements, they could be eligible for dual enrollment or one of our new Early Middle College programs. Our district does not offer AP courses as our most of our students are behind in their current coursework

In conclusion, Lighthouse Academy continues to expand and serve more youth each year. Lighthouse continues to focus on serving students that need a non-traditional educational placement. We find that our students who choose to stay with one of the Lighthouse Programs are able to obtain their high school diploma and choose to be productive citizens. The students who Lighthouse serves are truly unique and deserve advocates to come to their aid and provide a quality education. The Lighthouse students are capable and able to achieve at the highest level! Let's continue to work hard to help our students achieve their goals!

Sincerely,

Dr. Heidi Cate  
Superintendent