



Belding Area Schools

The right size. The right choice.

February 5, 2026

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 Ellis 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 Brian Babbitt, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: [Ellis Elementary School Annual Education Report](#), 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 subgroup in 2024-25. 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.

We have increased our number of parental involvement activities over the last three years and continue to offer summer reading activities and an open library to all our students, including students who are not meeting the state standards. Our early release half-days offered collaboration and professional development among teachers to vertically align more of the curriculum and look closely at the data results from our NWEA MAP and Acadience assessments. The establishment of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) in each grade level was a success this past year. Success came from quality conversations and moving students beyond the classroom for enrichment and re-teaching regularly, as well as having common assessments.

Our collaboration with grade-level teams and special education teachers was a success and a challenge for us last year, and we strive for higher levels of learning. We saw great improvements in our students with disabilities learning side by side with their peers, and we hope the benefits continue. As we pursue a more comprehensive curriculum and aligned resources K-5, we identify this as a key challenge.

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Home of the Black Knights



State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Belding students come to us by virtue of living within the boundaries of Belding Area Schools. In addition to resident students, we open our enrollment to Schools of Choice students throughout the school year at grade levels where it is determined that there is room for additional students.

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

The Ellis Elementary School Improvement Team and several building stakeholders have written a comprehensive school improvement plan focused on raising achievement for all students in reading, writing, math, social studies, and science. The plan is also focused on closing the achievement gaps in any subgroups and raising the achievement gap for ALL students through the Multi-Tiered System of Support.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

The philosophy of Belding Area Schools is to serve each individual with special needs in the least restrictive environment. A continuum of educational placement options is offered to individuals with mild to severe special needs from birth to age 26. Supportive services and vocational training programs are designed to meet their needs. Placement options are provided through the cooperative efforts of Belding Area Schools and the Ionia County Intermediate School District (ICISD). The ICISD and the local school districts combine to operate programs for low incidence populations. Likewise, pre-primary programs for impaired individuals serve many districts as a whole. It is the goal of the ICISD and Belding Area Schools to provide a complete continuum of services made available in an efficient and cost-effective manner, regardless of district size. Ellis Elementary has the following programs in-house for students with special needs: Two Special Education Resource Room teachers, two autism spectrum disorder classrooms that support all districts in Ionia County and 17 student-support and HCA paraprofessionals, and direct contact with the ICISD for students with autism spectrum disorder.

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

The curriculum is aligned to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations and Common Core State Standards. Local assessments are designed to assess these content expectations. District assessments are completed three times a year and the whole staff reviews the data. Larger scale assessments are analyzed as well to determine needs, and adjustments are made to the curriculum and instruction accordingly. The website is updated with curriculum documents.

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

DISTRICT MATH ASSESSMENT DATA

In the fall, winter, and spring of each year, students are given a local math assessment (MAP/NWEA) to assess their math skills. Results for the 2023-2025 beginning and end of the year are in the charts below. This was the ninth year of implementation for the NWEA Assessment.

2023-2024 Math

Grade	Fall	Spring	Growth
K	141	160.9	+19.9
1	157.1	178.1	+21
2	175.8	190.1	+14.3

2024-2025 Math

Grade	Fall	Spring	Growth
K	143.3	162.3	+19
1	158.6	179.8	+21.2
2	173.8	190.0	+16.2

DISTRICT READING ASSESSMENT DATA

In the fall, winter, and spring of each year, students are given a local reading assessment (MAP/NWEA) to assess their math skills. Results for the 2023-2025 beginning of the year and end of the year are in the charts below. This was the ninth year of implementation for the NWEA Assessment.

2023-2024 Reading

Grade	Fall	Spring	Growth
K	136.8	154.9	+18.1
1	151.5	171.1	+19.6
2	170.1	181.5	+11.4

2024-2025 Reading

Grade	Fall	Spring	Growth
K	137.4	156.5	+19.1
1	154.2	174.1	+19.9
2	168.9	181.4	+12.5

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**2023-2024**

During our fall conferences, 100% of our 403 students' families were invited, and 401 (99.5%) attended to share progress and were given information regarding student progress, achievement, and social emotional development. At the Spring Conferences, 100% of our 412 students' families were invited, and 408 (99.0%) attended the conferences. Throughout the school year, two additional individualized progress notes were sent home to keep parents up to date on student achievement based on individual skills or strategies.

2024-2025

During our fall conferences, 100% of our 391 students' families were invited, and 388 (99.2%) attended to share progress and were given information regarding student progress, achievement, and social emotional development. At the Spring Conferences, 100% of our 382 students' families were invited, and 376 (98.4%) attended the conferences. Throughout the school year, two additional individualized progress notes were sent home to keep parents up to date on student achievement based on individual skills or strategies.

Points of Pride

- 100% Highly Qualified Staff
- Curriculum-Based Assessments on Common Core State Standards
- Advanced Math Program
- Physical Education, STEAM, and Music Classes
- Robotics Club, Art Club, STEAM Club, Running Club
- Educational Field Trips and Anti-Bullying Assemblies
- Supportive Parent/Teacher Community

- Family Activity Nights (Math and Science- October, SEL – January, Reading- March, Writing- Spring)
- Family Book Fair twice a year
- Free Breakfast and Free Lunch for all Students
- Certified School Counselor
- Title I Interventionists and 31a Paraprofessionals
- Speech Therapists
- PBIS Highly Qualified Paraprofessional
- School-Wide Social Emotional Program (Caring School Community)
- Restorative Practices and PBIS to promote student growth and confidence to make good choices
- Child Study Team
- Updated Facilities and Technology
- MTSS (WIN – ‘What I Need’) Structure and Implementation
- Outside Agencies Involved in Meeting Family Needs

The staff at Ellis Elementary is a dedicated, caring, hard-working, and highly trained team. Our goal to include our parents, families, and the community in the education of all our kids is of utmost importance. We look forward to starting your child on their learning journey at Ellis.

Sincerely,

Brian Babbitt

Brian Babbitt, Principal
Ellis Elementary School