

January 13, 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 Stephenson Area Public Schools. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Renea Oskwarek, Superintendent's Administrative Assistant in the Superintendent's Office for assistance.

The district AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: [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 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.

Our school was identified for: Has Not Been Given One of These Labels.

Stephenson Area Public Schools continues to focus on improving student achievement while addressing persistent gaps identified in the Annual Education Report data. Key challenges include variability in student performance across grade levels, particularly in mathematics and literacy, as well as achievement gaps among economically disadvantaged students and students with disabilities. Like many rural districts in the Upper Peninsula, SAPS also faces challenges related to enrollment fluctuations and limited access to specialized instructional resources. To address these concerns, the district has implemented targeted instructional supports, including increased use of data-driven decision making, intervention programming, and professional development aligned to identified needs. Through the MICIP process, SAPS has prioritized instructional consistency, strengthening Tier I instruction, and expanding targeted interventions to accelerate student learning and close achievement gaps.

State law requires that we also report additional information. To meet state requirements, the following information is provided for the two most recent years:

### **Process for Assigning Pupils to the School**

All students in grades K–12 who reside within the City of Stephenson are assigned to Stephenson Area Public Schools unless an alternative placement is selected through the School of Choice option.

### **Status of the 3–5 Year School Improvement Plan**

Since its adoption, Stephenson Area Public Schools has followed the Michigan Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) model for school improvement. The district has established a MICIP team consisting of administrators and teachers representing the high school, junior high, and elementary. In addition to quarterly meetings with the district MICIP Coordinator, the team meets periodically to review progress, analyze data, and determine whether adjustments to the plan are necessary. SAPS is currently in the implementation phase of its five-year plan and has completed all required components to date.

### **Description of Specialized Schools**

Stephenson High School offers traditional in-person classroom instruction, online coursework, and Credit Recovery opportunities.

### **Core Curriculum Access and Implementation**

A copy of the core curriculum may be obtained from the Stephenson High School office. The district's curriculum aligns fully with Michigan Academic Standards and is implemented with fidelity across grade levels. There are no variances from the state's model. Aggregate student achievement results from local competency assessments and nationally normed tests in reading and mathematics are available via the link provided earlier in this report.

### **Parent-Teacher Conference Participation**

During the most recent school year, parent-teacher conferences were offered in-person. Approximately **81.9%** of K-5 parents participated and **37.6%** of 6-12 parents participated. Participation data is reviewed annually to identify strategies for increasing family engagement and communication.

6. For our high school we report on the following:

2024-2025

- a. The Number and Percent of Postsecondary Enrollments (Dual Enrollment) = 43 students or 35%.
- b. The Number of College Equivalent Courses Offered (AP/IB). 0
- c. The Number and Percentage of Students Enrolled in College Equivalent Courses (AP/IB). 0

- d. The Number and Percentage of Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit = 43 students or 35%.

e.

It is my pleasure to share with the Stephenson Area Public Schools parents and community this report of the Stephenson Area Public Schools academic achievement and successes. We are committed at Stephenson Area Public Schools to providing the educational foundation and opportunities for all students to help guide and prepare them for their futures. Our highly qualified staff is committed to collaboration and data analysis to not only help students grow as part of our daily practice, but to continue a pathway of continuous improvement.

The Stephenson Area Public School District would like to thank our parents and community for their commitment in supporting our district. In joining with us, together we help ensure our students develop a foundation of values and skills that will instill confidence and equip them with knowledge they will build upon as they continue their journey as lifelong learners.

I hope you find this report to be informative and useful. If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at (906) 753-2221 or email [jsardina@stephenson.k12.mi.us](mailto:jsardina@stephenson.k12.mi.us).

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Sardina", with a horizontal line underneath.

Jerry Sardina  
Superintendent