



Montague Area Public Schools

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February 7, 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 the Montague Area Childhood Center. 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 Jennifer Stoneman at 231-981-4680 for assistance.

An AER state assessment report is not available for our early childhood center because students do not begin formal state testing until grade 3. The AER Report for the MACC does include information on teacher qualifications and can be reviewed electronically by visiting the following web site: <https://bit.ly/3aI8CqA>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. This letter will outline the results of our local data and share areas of strength and focus.

For the 2023-24 school year, schools were identified using previous years' 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.

The Montague Area Childhood Center is a wonderful place for our Pre-K and Kindergarten students to learn and grow. It is the only Kindergarten building in our district. Although our school was not identified with any improvement labels for the 2023-24 school year, we are addressing the challenges we have identified. Our special education subgroup consistently scores below our non-special education students. Our team identified two areas of focus: explicit instruction in phonemic awareness and phonics and developing number sense. By focusing on early literacy, we are building

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Montague Area Childhood Center
9151 Dickey St.
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the foundation necessary to develop strong readers and writers. A student's ability to blend and segment words is critical to future reading and writing success. All of the Kindergarten staff participated in extended learning around the 10 Essentials of Early Literacy Instruction during the 2020-21 school year, and added to their knowledge base of early literacy instruction during the 2022-23 school year by completing LETRS training which was sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education. In 2024, teachers participated in a book study (Shifting the Balance) in collaboration with the ISD, which extended their learning around the science of reading. Teachers had additional learning focused on developing number sense through the examination and analysis of student work completed within our Bridges Math Program. As a result, teachers have strengthened their subject specific instruction in early literacy and math.

Students attending Montague Area Childhood Center include those who reside within the District's boundaries, or attend through Schools of Choice. There are no overlapping grade spans in the Montague Area Public Schools, therefore students attend the school that provides educational service for the respective age-grade level.

In accordance with the Michigan Department of Education's framework for continuous improvement, the staff work together to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment which identifies strengths and weaknesses with the instructional program. From the needs assessments, goals and objectives are developed in a detailed plan that is carried out over the course of 3-5 years. Montague Area Childhood Center is in year 4 of our four-year Michigan comprehensive improvement process (MICIP) plan. The four-year plan we have developed focuses efforts on providing professional development to ensure the building's system of curriculum, instruction, and assessment matches the district's visions for high-quality subject specific instruction. It also supports prioritizing social emotional learning to our students and staff. If you are interested in reviewing a copy of our core curriculum, you may contact the building principal. If you are interested in learning more about the Common Core State Standards, you may go to the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) website at <https://www.michigan.gov/mde/services/academic-standards>.

All Kindergarten students at Montague Area Childhood Center are assessed three times per year using the Dynamic Inventory of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS Next). 76% of students scored in a proficient range in the spring of 2024, which was down from 96% proficient range in the spring of 2023. In both years, our special education subgroup scored significantly lower than the non-special education subgroup.

During the 2020-21 school year, Montague moved to a Bridges Benchmark math assessment developed by math consultants at our Muskegon ISD. 94% of students were proficient on the spring 2023. In the spring of 2024, the proficiency rates of our students

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decreased to 87% on the spring assessment. Overall our SE subgroup scored lower than our non SE subgroup on this assessment in both consecutive years.

Montague Area Childhood Center is very proud of the participation and support of our parents and community. During the 2023-2024 school year, and the 2022-23 school year, both fall and spring conferences were held. Parent participation ranged from 95-98% for all conference dates. We have a very active parent group that helps raise funds to pay for study trips, supplies, and assemblies. We continually seek members of the community to partner with us to help provide our students with the best educational experiences possible. Parent events are scheduled each trimester and offer opportunities for parents to engage in activities with their children that can support their child's learning at home. We are proud of the work we do at Montague Area Childhood Center and encourage families to visit our school to see the wonderful things happening for our students and families.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Stoneman
Title I Director
Montague Area Childhood Center Principal