



February 18, 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 Ottawa Area 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 JoAnne Thorsen (Building Director) for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [linked here](#), 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.

Ottawa Area Center does not receive a label. It is important to note that Ottawa Area Center is a center-based, segregated facility designed to serve students with severe to moderate cognitive impairments, significant multiple impairments and severe behavior. In order to attend Ottawa Area Center, each student's IEP team must determine that placement in this highly restrictive setting is necessary and appropriate.

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL:

Ottawa Area Center is a center-based, segregated facility designed to serve students with severe to moderate cognitive impairments, significant multiple impairments and severe behavior. All students are placed through the Individualized Education Program Team (IEPT) process. This approach has been utilized since the inception of the program.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

The school improvement plan is in alignment with the OAISD district improvement plan. As a district, OAISD and each of the buildings are working towards implementation of consistent multi-tiered systems of support, specific to behavior and supporting positive behavior systems for students. During 2023-2024, the OAISD focused on identifying a primary focus for implementation of MTSS, behavior is selected as the focus in 2024-2025.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL:

Ottawa Area Center is a segregated facility that serves students with severe needs and has been in existence for more than fifty years. Our students come from local schools within Ottawa Area, ranging from elementary to high school. There are thirty classrooms staffed with qualified teachers and teacher assistants. Additional staff include a school social worker, teacher consultant, behavior specialists, school psychologist, and other staff assigned to meet student IEP needs.

IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM:

Ottawa Area Center continues to work towards full alignment with the Michigan Department of Education's (MDE) Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC). [Linked here](#) is the complete listing of the MMC guidelines. We make every effort to follow these guidelines as we work with students in accordance with their IEP, local district expectations, and current levels of functioning.

AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS:

The Ottawa Area Center continues to make progress in academic achievement. Two areas for continued focus is improvement in reading and math, through the Core Skill Curriculum.

STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Ottawa Area Center continues to receive strong support from family members. 79% of students were represented by parents or guardians at parent-teacher conferences in the fall of 2024.

HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY, REPORT ON:

The Ottawa Area Center is a segregated, center-based facility that serves students ages 3-26 years old, therefore, we do not report as a high school.

Ottawa Area Intermediate School District is pleased to have the opportunity to continue to serve students at Ottawa Area Center. Thank you for your continued support of our school. Together we can make a difference in the lives of our students. If you have questions, please contact Ottawa Area Center office at (616) 738-8960.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Thorsen

Director

Ottawa Area Center

Ottawa Area ISD