



*A School That Leads with  
Heart and Mind*

## **Escuela Avancemos Academy**

### **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

23 January 2023

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2021-22 educational progress for Escuela Avancemos Academy. 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 Dr. Steven Ovares or Lyndsey McClintic for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website **<https://bit.ly/3FZzHC1>**, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2021-22 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 2021-22. 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.

Our school **HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ONE OF THESE LABELS.**

## **KEY CHALLENGES AND KEY INITIATIVES**

As can be seen from the AER report, the academy has seen schoolwide growth in Reading, moving from 19% proficient/advanced in 2019 to 24% proficient/advanced this past spring (2022). The academy went down to 15% proficient/advanced this spring from 19% in 2019.

While we continue to celebrate growth at the academy, we recognize that there is still work to be done in terms of the school's proficiency levels across grade levels. When reviewing the AER report for proficiency for all students at each grade level, the academy is currently falling an average of around 18% below the statewide proficiency percentages in both ELA and Mathematics. The gross of these proficiency gaps can be seen in grades 3-5.

In line with our Strategic Plan Goal for ALL students to make at least a year's worth of growth each year in order to close the gap in proficiencies, we have prioritized our supplementary content blocks, namely the "WIN" time to target specific students and their specific goals. For Grades 3-8, this looks like embedding the researched best practice of Guided Reading into the WIN block. Teachers work with small groups of students on "just right" texts, focusing on foundational and comprehension skills to help them better access grade level content taught in the literacy block. In grades K-2, the WIN block has become an *extension* of the literacy block, so that teachers have more time to differentiate instruction and focus on the basic skills early readers need to become fluent readers. In these grades, it has taken the literacy block from a 90-minute block - where all students receive grade-level instruction - to a 2-hour block, where students receive a mix of grade level and "just right" differentiated instruction, both by the teacher and through the iReady platform. Also, across all grades 1st-8th, our paraprofessionals are working with students who are currently performing in the bottom 25% on additional foundational skills through SIPPS Kits and lessons.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

### **1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

Escuela Avancemos Academy is a free, public school and adheres to all requirements outlined by its charter authorizer and federal and state law regarding enrollments. The academy does not charge tuition nor discriminate in admissions policies or practices on the basis of intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a handicapped person, religion, creed, race, sex, color or national origin. Current students are given the opportunity to re-enroll in late winter, with preference given to them and their siblings. In the spring, the school holds an advertised open enrollment period, during which any Michigan

resident may apply. In the event that any grade is oversubscribed, a public lottery is held to determine enrollment and a waiting list.

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

The Single Building District Improvement Plan (SBDIP) is continuously reevaluated. Administrators, teachers, and ancillary staff participate in a comprehensive review of student data and collaborate to create a school-wide plan that includes a hierarchical arrangement of goals, objectives, strategies, and supporting activities. Our current academic focus is on academic growth, high quality instruction, and a focus on school culture through the lens of social emotional learning, as evidenced by the district's goals.

## **3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ESCUELA AVANCEMOS ACADEMY**

Escuela Avancemos! Academy is a single-district school, offering K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Escuela Avancemos is dedicated to continuous improvement through social, behavioral, and academic outcomes. Striving to be the best local educational option for its students and families, the Academy offers evidence-based curricula and pedagogy to meet the needs of its diverse student population. Escuela Avancemos is built on an innovative and holistic framework, where each student's identity drives the inclusive learning process. The unique pedagogy incorporates restorative principles, academic rigor, dual language acquisition, and community engagement strategies to inspire students to be critical thinkers and succeed at the highest level.

The core values at Escuela Avancemos form the foundation on which all work is performed and are the guidelines by which staff and students alike conduct themselves. These core values (as identified below) govern personal relationships, guide business processes, clarify what Escuela Avancemos stands for, explain business practices, guide teachers in instructional methodologies, inform decision making, and underpin the whole organization.

- Academic Excellence
- Community
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Practices
- Bi-Literacy
- Responsiveness
- Growth Mindset
- Empathy

## **4. CORE CURRICULUM**

The curricular programs chosen are aligned to the Common Core standards which are adopted by the state of Michigan. More information about the programs, including links to access the websites, are listed below:

**Literacy**

The Academy has adopted the Success for All reading program to teach reading. Core elements of the instructional model are as follows:

- **Cross-grade ability grouping and regrouping:** students are placed in a reading class that is aligned to standardized testing scores; a placed student may be grouped with younger or older students. Students are regrouped, following administration of standardized testing during the winter.
- **90-minute reading block:** all ELA lessons are scripted for 90 minutes and mirror the Cycle of Effective Instruction, which contains the following 4 stages of instructional delivery: direct instruction; teamwork; assessment; and celebration. An emphasis on teamwork is evidenced by the majority of instructional time spent within this subcomponent within the scripted lessons.
- **Scripted and timed lessons:** all lessons are accompanied by a script and are timed in order to address all requisite reading skills.
- **Technology-supported instruction:** all lessons are supported with multimedia presentations and Smart Boards
- **Data-driven instruction:** instructors are expected to gather data throughout the lesson cycle in the form of formative assessment and summative assessment. Comprehensive and detailed performance scales accompany all performance tasks within each lesson and students are provided copies of each rubric.
- **Cooperative learning:** a majority of the learning process occurs in the contexts of student partnerships and teams.

The Academy has adopted a research-based literacy program called iReady®, noted for its positive effects. iReady®, delivers daily differentiated instruction for nonfiction reading and writing that are precisely tailored to each student’s Lexile® reading level.

Curricular Program	Resources in program used for:
Success for All <a href="http://www.successforall.org">www.successforall.org</a>	Oral Language and Vocabulary Development, Phonics, Fluency, Comprehension Skill Development, Written Expression

<p>iReady <a href="http://login.iReady.com">login.iReady.com</a></p>	<p>Foundation writing skills, Vocabulary Acquisition, Development in Writing Purpose</p>
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**Math**

With respect to mathematics, the academy has implemented Eureka math. Eureka math is fully aligned to Common Core Standards for Mathematics. Through implementation of the curriculum, students will develop conceptual understanding of math concepts through carefully sequenced modules. It also provides on-going assessment and intervention support.

<b>Curricular Program</b>	<b>Resources in program used for:</b>
<p>Eureka Math <a href="https://greatminds.org/math">https://greatminds.org/math</a></p>	<p>Measurement, Geometry, Numbers and Operations, Algebraic Thinking, Data Analysis and Probability, Problem Solving</p>

**Science**

Science instruction at Escuela Avancemos is led through highly crafted learning expeditions that are inquiry-based and have a strong basis in lab work, exploration, and mastery of specific concepts. The science curriculum is grounded from the work outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) from the National Research Council. Place-based education helps students explore their local environment. Science instruction at Escuela Avancemos provides virtual labs for all students that supplement more traditional labs in the core disciplines of science.

<b>Curricular Program</b>	<b>Resources in program used for:</b>
<p>Science - Amplify Science <a href="https://www.amplify.com/programs/amplify-science">https://www.amplify.com/programs/amplify-science</a></p>	<p>Biology, Earth and Space, Force, Matter &amp; Energy, Motion &amp; Energy, Organisms and Environments, Physics</p>

**Social Studies**

The C3 Framework drives the Academy’s approach in disseminating social studies instruction. Students work toward state standards through use of a wide array of monographs, textbooks, stories, videos, web sites, maps, pictures, and other

historical sources to study cultures, geography, and social sciences. Students participate in well-crafted learning expeditions that address social justice issues that relate to the immediate environment.

<b>Curricular Program</b>	<b>Resources in program used for:</b>
Social Studies - Atlas Rubicon <a href="https://wayneresa-public.rubiconatlas.org">https://wayneresa-public.rubiconatlas.org</a>	History, Geography, Civics, Government, economics, and Public Discourse

## 5. AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

### M-STEP Projected Proficiency (NWEA)

As shown in the following table, the district tracks the level of readiness for state-testing (M-STEP). This information, which is sourced from the NWEA Projected Proficiency report, provides a prediction for state-testing outcomes, based on student percentile rankings. Students are counted 'proficient,' once their percentile rank falls somewhere in the 6th decile (it varies slightly for math and reading). Since this generally corresponds to above grade level, it is a more conservative and safer approach to measuring student growth over time. As the source report only covers grades 2–7, the district uses 'Grade Level' reports for kindergarten and first grade to determine the percentage of students at/above grade level at any given time.

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Testing Area</b>	<b>Fall 2020</b>	<b>Spring 2021</b>	<b>Fall 2021</b>	<b>Spring 2022</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>MATH</b>	64.7%	64.7%	15.3%	9.5%
<b>K</b>	<b>ELA</b>	64.7%	35.2%	15.3%	11.9%
<b>1</b>	<b>MATH</b>	45.8%	26.6%	21.2%	20.5%
<b>1</b>	<b>ELA</b>	22.9%	11.3%	9%	5.7%
<b>2</b>	<b>MATH</b>	19.6%	10.8%	10%	16.7%
<b>2</b>	<b>ELA</b>	15.8%	4.4%	4%	6.1%

<b>3</b>	<b>MATH</b>	12.5%	4.3%	15.9%	9.5%
<b>3</b>	<b>ELA</b>	7.5%	4.4%	11.4%	19%
<b>4</b>	<b>MATH</b>	4.8%	7.5%	5.8%	8.1%
<b>4</b>	<b>ELA</b>	10%	15%	7.7%	12.3%
<b>5</b>	<b>MATH</b>	2.9%	2.7%	2.4%	12.8%
<b>5</b>	<b>ELA</b>	13.9%	11.5%	17.1%	25.6%
<b>6</b>	<b>MATH</b>	7.9%	15%	2.3%	8.8%
<b>6</b>	<b>ELA</b>	25.7%	18.5%	15.4%	22.3%
<b>7</b>	<b>MATH</b>	12.1%	18.2%	20%	5.6%
<b>7</b>	<b>ELA</b>	15.6%	8.3%	27.5%	24.3%
<b>8</b>	<b>PSAT MATH</b>	-	-	24.2%	29.4%
<b>8</b>	<b>PSAT ELA</b>	-	-	24.2%	32.3%

## 6. NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

<b>Parent Involvement Initiatives</b>	<b>Outcome (# of participants) or Impact</b>
<b>November 2020 Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	251 or <b>72%</b> of student/family attendance during PT conferences (virtual)
<b>February 2021 Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	224 or <b>64%</b> of student/family attendance during PT conferences (virtual)
<b>May 2021 Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	240 or <b>78%</b> of student/family attendance during PT conferences (virtual)
<b>November 2021 Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	330 or <b>88%</b> of student/family attendance during PT conferences (combined virtual/in person)

<b>February 2022 Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	276 or <b>75%</b> of student/family attendance during PT conferences (virtual)
<b>May 2022 Parent Teacher Conferences</b>	312 or <b>84%</b> of student family attendance during PT conferences (combined virtual/in person)

Our leadership team would like to congratulate our teachers, instructional staff, families, and students on a successful school year as we bounce back from the effects of the recent COVID-19 pandemic. In difficult times, our staff, families and students demonstrated resilience and continued to promote high-quality education and prioritize social-emotional learning in our unwavering commitment to a holistic educational approach. We look forward to our continued success in years to come. Please feel free to reach out to us with any questions, concerns or feedback.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steven Ovaes, Principal