



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

February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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 Capital Area K-12 Online. 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 Mrs. Amber Lee for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [Capital Area K12 Online AER](#)

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 2018-19. 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 2017-18. 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 2016-17. 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

Capital Area K-12 Online is a brand new, 100% online, school in the Lansing School District for the 2021/2022 school year and serves kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our school is getting started in the participation of K-12 standardized assessments and the collection of data based off of student performance. We anticipate the data we will collect from state-mandated assessments this spring. Until then, our school is in its initial stages of administering and collecting student data from district-required benchmarks (NWEA/AIMSWeb) in K-12, and additionally, benchmark assessments offered through our curriculum program in K-6 (HMH Anywhere). As of now, our students in K-12 have taken fall and winter benchmarks. Our key initiatives for accelerating and closing gaps in student achievement are in the beginning stages as we learn how to effectively respond to our students'

performance with intentional student goal-setting and differentiated instruction and intervention.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Capital Area K-12 Online requires all new students to submit an application through the enrollment page of the Lansing School District website. As part of a school-of-choice district, we consider all students regardless of where the student attended previously within the Lansing School District. Students from outside our district can also be considered to enroll in our school.

Our school is in the initial stages of school improvement activities. We look forward to continuing recognizing social and emotional learning (SEL) and early literacy practices as primary goals as part of our school improvement plan.

For Capital Area, part of our SEL vision is to infuse academic, social, and emotional learning that fits the needs of our virtual students. Our teachers and staff will be guided using the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP) to help gain a deeper understanding of planning, assessing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating or SEL practices. Our strategies will consist of the use of the 5 CASEL Competencies Framework, establishing a CRPBIS team to support this goal, and making data-driven decisions to help us improve each year.

Moving further into our school improvement plans, a major goal is to achieve growth in our students' early reading literacy and math numeracy. We will use multiple strategies to help us reach this goal in the years ahead. It will be an important strategy for our teachers to receive professional learning in our core curriculum program and learn about available intervention tools and methods. Using tiered instructional frameworks such as the multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), to help inform our decisions and address student needs at different levels as well as our district's tiered system of attendance to support a positive culture of attendance will be at the center of literacy and numeracy support.

Capital Area is a 100% online school that serves kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Part of the rationale for offering a virtual school in the Lansing School District followed the challenges of the Covid pandemic as it would be able to offer a choice for families as our district returned to face-to-face learning in school buildings. This

continues to be a good fit for families who choose to keep their student learning outside of brick-and-mortar. However, Capital Area has an additional rationale to offer students an option who are seeking a more flexible learning environment. Our school allows students to be independent learners and work at their own pace.

Our K-6 students work virtually, both synchronously and asynchronously, with our own Lansing School District teachers each week using the Google classroom platform. Students complete much of their learning activities both independently and with the live support of their teacher using HMH Anywhere, an all-access digital curriculum program.

Our 7-12 students work asynchronously with the lessons and assignments provided by certified virtual teachers through Michigan Virtual, a Lansing School District partner. Students stay connected with a Lansing School District mentor each week through the Google classroom platform and have access to a success coach through Michigan Virtual who initiates discussions around their coursework.

We follow the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics. For the social studies content area, we use the state of Michigan's grade level content expectations and the Next Generation Science standards for the science content area. These standards can be seen on the Michigan Department of Education website at, [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov). Furthermore, the standards have been compiled into our district-made pacing guides, which can be found on the Lansing School District website found in the Curriculum Corner Tab within the Office of Curriculum and Instruction department page. The pacing guides serve as an effective tool for our teachers to have access to all standards in one location as they plan their lessons and units.

Capital Area K-12 Online is a brand-new school that opened for the 2021/2022 school year. To this date, we are anticipating the participation of state-mandated testing and analyzing results. Currently, our students have been assessed using our district-required benchmark assessments, NWEA and AIMSWeb. These assessments are administered 3 times a year, and thus far, we've had the opportunity to collect data from our 2021 fall benchmark in grades K-6 as well as our 2021/2022 winter benchmarks in grades K-12.

Our parent-teacher conferences have been well attended. It made sense for our school to strive for 100% participation in grades K-6, while requesting a parent compact to be signed in 7-12, as our 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students do not have a teacher through the Lansing School District, as mentioned above. Our K-6 fall 2021 parent-teacher conference attendance rate for K-6 was: Kindergarten:40%, 1<sup>st</sup>

grade: 86%, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: 100%, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:79%, 4<sup>th</sup> grade: 5<sup>th</sup> grade: 100%, 6<sup>th</sup> grade: 98%

In regards to our secondary students, we currently do not have any dual enrolments at this time. Although the Michigan Virtual program does offer 23 AP courses, none of our students were enrolled in AP courses for the first semester in 2021, as these students were still in the position of meeting their core graduation classes. Being in the beginning stages and experiencing our first senior graduating class, we haven't shown and percentage of students receiving a score leading to college credit as of yet.

Capital Area K-12 Online is off to a great start and I am proud of the strides we've made in just a single school year. As we continue to be intentional with our teaching practices and learn how to effectively allow the data to steer our ship, we can only move forward in the best direction for our students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amber Marie Lee  
Assistant Principal