



**School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter
Sunset Lake Elementary**

January 27, 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 Sunset Lake Elementary. 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 Amie McCaw, Principal, at 269-321-1500 for assistance.

[The AER](#) is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: [Vicksburg Community Schools](#). You may also 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 2022-23. 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%, or failed to exit ATS status in 2022-23. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In this case, no label is given, as is the case with Sunset Lake Elementary.

At Sunset Lake Elementary, we are a Leader in Me school, and our culture fosters student voice and leadership opportunities. To help grow our students' inner voice, it is essential to give them the tools to become confident as learners. We strive to balance the whole child's needs by providing robust academic and social-emotional support. To achieve this, we rely on STAR assessment data to monitor student progress in reading and math and Panorama to screen for social-emotional strengths and growth areas. One of our cornerstone initiatives, developed through careful analysis of these data points, is the implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS). This framework ensures all students receive tailored support to meet their unique needs. Key strategies include small instructional groups during WIN (What I Need) time and ongoing collaboration within our building's Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). These efforts foster a data-driven culture that allows us to create and implement effective interventions, ensuring student success across multiple domains.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Process for assigning pupils to the school:

Elementary students are assigned to one of three school buildings based on geographical boundaries to fully utilize the district's teaching and facility resources. We attempt to assign Schools of Choice students to the closest building geographically, but it first depends upon availability.

Status of the School Improvement Plan:

Sunset Lake Elementary's Continuous Improvement Plan aligns with the Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP), providing a structured framework for enhancing student achievement. Our plan prioritizes student learning goals in reading, math, science, and social studies, ensuring a balanced and comprehensive approach to academic success. A cornerstone of our strategy is the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), where educators collaborate to analyze data, share best practices, and develop targeted interventions. This data-driven and evolving process allows us to assess growth regularly, adapt our strategies, and focus clearly on continuous improvement. By leveraging MICIP and fostering a culture of collaboration, Sunset Lake is committed to ensuring that every student meets their full potential.

Specialized Supports:

To help enhance and support our different learners, we offer differentiated opportunities at Sunset Lake Elementary.

- Bulldog Beginnings - Bulldog Beginnings preschool focuses on school readiness skills in a fun, play-based format. Bulldog Beginnings is entirely FREE to families who meet the qualifications. This includes transportation, meals, snacks, parent education programs, and field trips.

- Hearing, Vision, Speech, and Occupational Therapy Consultation Services- Support provided for qualifying students during the school day.
- Counselor, Social Worker, Student Services Coordinator, Behavior Specialist, School Psychologist- All Sunset Lake students can access these added supports when needed.

Core Curriculum:

Sunset Lake incorporates the district curriculum, designed to provide a rigorous and well-rounded education aligned with state and national standards.

A key focus is the implementation of the Common Core State Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, which form the foundation of our K-5 programming and have the greatest impact on student achievement. To support this, we provide instruction for all students with a daily 90-minute ELA block implementing materials from Curriculum Associates and a 60-minute math block implementing Eureka Math materials ensuring students receive focused and comprehensive instruction in these core areas. We utilize the Battle Creek Math and Science Kits for science, which align with the Michigan Science Standards to foster hands-on, inquiry-based learning. In Social Studies, we implement the MC3 curriculum for grades K-5, emphasizing critical thinking and connections to our world. This cohesive approach ensures our students are well-prepared for future academic success.

The Core Curriculum at Sunset Lake Elementary can be viewed by contacting Amie McCaw, Principal of Sunset Lake Elementary, at 269-321-1561.

Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Local Competency Tests or Nationally Normed Achievement Tests:

2022-23 Sunset Lake Elementary					2023-24 Sunset Lake Elementary				
	At or Above	On Watch	Intervention	Urgent Intervention		At or Above	On Watch	Intervention	Urgent Intervention
STAR Early Literacy – Spring 2023					STAR Early Literacy – Spring 2024				
K	86%	11%	2%	2%	K	88%	8%	2.7%	1.3%
STAR Reading – Spring 2023					STAR Reading – Spring 2024				
1st	63%	21%	12%	4%	1st	78.7%	19.6%	1.8%	0%
2nd	54%	26%	11%	10%	2nd	70.2%	18.9%	6.8%	4.1%
3rd	62%	23%	11%	4%	3rd	40.9%	37.5%	11.4%	10.2%
4th	56%	36%	6%	1%	4th	63.2%	27.6%	5.3%	3.9%
5th	60%	24%	14%	2%	5th	48.8%	41.3%	8.8%	1.3%

STAR Math – Spring 2023					STAR Math – Spring 2024				
1st	88%	8%	4%	0%	1st	82.6%	14.5%	1.4%	1.4%
2nd	84%	13%	1%	2%	2nd	74.1%	16%	6.2%	3.7%
3rd	72%	23%	4%	1%	3rd	58.4%	27%	11.2%	3.4%
4th	78%	18%	1%	3%	4th	72.3%	25%	1.3%	1.3%
5th	69%	21%	6%	4%	5th	67.5%	21.3%	8.8%	2.5%

Family Conferences

Family Conferences led by the classroom teacher are held at the end of the first marking period. Student-led conferences are held during the second marking period, where students share their learning goals and progress. Approximately 95% of Sunset families attend conferences consistently.

Additional conferences and Student Assistance Team (SAT) meetings may be held at the request of a parent and/or when the school team believes a student requires more support to help make adequate progress academically, socially, or emotionally.

At Sunset Lake Elementary, we take immense pride in cultivating a culture that values student voice, leadership, and growth for every learner. As a Leader in Me school, we empower students to discover their unique strengths and lead with confidence, placing them at the heart of everything we do. Our Student Lighthouse and Family Lighthouse teams exemplify this commitment by fostering collaboration, celebrating student achievements, and strengthening connections between school and home. We firmly believe that partnering with our families is essential to our collective success, and together, we ensure that all students have the opportunity to grow, thrive, and reach their fullest potential. Sunset Lake’s community of dedicated educators partners with our families to create an environment where every child is seen, valued, and supported on their journey to success.

Sincerely,

Amie McCaw

Amie McCaw
 Sunset Lake Elementary School, Principal
amccaw@vicksburgschools.org