



February 2026

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2024-25 educational progress for Lakes Elementary School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about accountability, student assessment, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Matt Zokoe for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following link: [Lakes Elementary School's Academic Educational Report](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2025-26 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 group in 2024-25. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had at least one student group 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, had a graduation rate at or below 67%, failed to exit CSI status in 2024-25, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given.

Our school was identified for: no status label.

Lakes Elementary is working to make the right instructional moves to improve student learning by demonstrating growth in both NWEA ELA and Math achievement from the 2024 testing to the 2025 testing. Fall to Spring testing showed an overall building growth in ELA of 69th achievement to 77th achievement percentile and in Math a 68th achievement to a 79th achievement percentile. Lakes continues to support students needing additional help in the area of reading. Lakes provides tier 3 targeted reading interventions five days a week, focusing on foundational skills for students who are missing reading skills. We have observed that our overall number of students who qualify for tier 3 reading has reduced due to our focus on student support. Lakes, along with the RPS district, are in year two of the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum to ensure consistent, high-quality tier 1 literacy instruction for all students. Lakes teachers provide a minimum of 90 to 120 minutes of daily reading instruction in both reading skills and highly engaging reading knowledge. Lakes teachers also provide a minimum of 60 minutes of direct tier 1 math instruction daily. Lakes teachers collaborate in grade-level professional learning communities to analyze student data, differentiate instruction, and implement tiered support strategies, ensuring every student thrives. Lakes teachers have also added 2 days a week of common planning time dedicated to focusing on ELA and Math instruction within the classroom

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. Students are enrolled into Rockford Public Schools via a centralized, online enrollment system. Upon enrollment, students are placed into the appropriate building based on their home address, and then placed into the appropriate grade level and classroom based on previous placement, test scores and team discussion.
2. All elementary and secondary schools in RPS participate in strategic planning and goal setting. The primary purpose of the planning is to increase student learning for every student. The [RPS MICIP Plan](#) provides initiative focus for each building and the goals also align with priorities identified in the [RAMS XII Strategic Plan](#). Named FAST Goals, the building progress monitors evidence towards meeting benchmarks three times per year.
3. Lakes Elementary School fosters academic growth, creativity and community for the Rockford Public Schools students in Kindergarten through Fifth grades.
4. If you would like to access a copy of the core curriculum, a description of its implementation and explanation of the variances from the state's model, please contact Matt Zokoe, Lakes Elementary School principal.
5. Lakes Elementary Schools' state proficiency achievement results on Spring MSTEP benchmark assessments for 2024 and 2025 are as follows:
 - Spring 2024: MSTEP Math 70%, MSTEP Reading 64%
 - Spring 2025: MSTEP Math 66%, MSTEP Reading 64%
6. The parent/guardian teacher conference attendance percentage for the previous two school years at Lakes Elementary School are listed below:
 - 2023-2024: 97%
 - 2024-2025: 98%

Lakes Elementary makes a significant positive impact on the Rockford School Community. Increasingly, the student learning-focused initiatives, including aligning with the Professional Learning Communities and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support beliefs and structure continue to shape a student learning trend that is increasing. Lakes Elementary is proud to partner with its families and together prepare students for their next steps in life.

Sincerely,



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