



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 East Rockford Middle 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 Adam Burkholder for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following link: [East Rockford Middle 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.

East Middle School continues to demonstrate strong academic growth across multiple content areas, supported by several years of increasingly focused instructional practices. Overall trends show meaningful gains while also highlighting clear areas for continued improvement.

In mathematics, sixth-grade and seventh-grade performance shows sustained long-term growth. Sixth-grade proficiency increased from 45 percent in 2021 to 70 percent in 2025, reflecting stronger Tier 1 instruction and improved readiness. Seventh-grade math rose from 49 percent to 65 percent, with a significant jump in 2024 and stabilization in 2025, indicating the need to continue refining targeted supports and extensions.

Eighth-grade math, measured by the PSAT, remains an area for focused attention. After peaking at 70 percent in 2023, proficiency declined to 55 percent by 2025. This trend contrasts with gains in earlier grades and signals the need for deeper analysis and instructional alignment in eighth-grade math.

English Language Arts continues to be a strength. Sixth-grade ELA proficiency grew from 48 percent to 67 percent, and seventh-grade ELA showed a strong lift in 2024 that was sustained in 2025. Eighth-grade ELA remains a standout area, holding steady at 88 percent proficiency over the past two years.

Science achievement has improved substantially, rising from 34 percent in 2021 to 64 percent in 2025, despite a slight dip from its 2024 peak. Social Studies shows the most dramatic recent improvement, jumping from the low-50-percent range to 79 percent proficiency in 2025.

To sustain growth and close remaining gaps, East Middle School is strengthening tiered math interventions, sharpening instructional practices through PLC collaboration, and embedding literacy strategies across content areas. This work aligns with Pillar 1: Academic Excellence and reflects a continued commitment to rigorous instruction and improved outcomes for all students.

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. East Rockford Middle School fosters academic growth, creativity and community for the Rockford Public Schools students in Sixth through Eighth 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 Adam Burkholder, East Rockford Middle School principal.
5. East Rockford Middle School state proficiency achievement results on Spring MSTEP and national percentile achievement results on Fall PSAT benchmark assessments for 2024 and 2025 are as follows:
Spring 2024: MSTEP Math 64%, MSTEP Reading 62%
Spring 2025: MSTEP Math 68%, MSTEP Reading 68%
Fall 2023: PSAT Math 53%, PSAT Reading 85%
Fall 2024: PSAT Math 55%, PSAT Reading 87%
6. The parent/guardian teacher conference attendance percentage for the previous two school years at East Rockford Middle School are listed below:
2023-2024: 21%
2024-2025: 27%

East Rockford Middle School 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. East Rockford Middle School is proud to partner with its families and together prepare students for their next steps in life.

Sincerely,



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