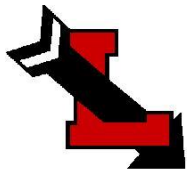


# LOWELL AREA SCHOOLS

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Lowell, Michigan 49331

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www.lowellschools.com



## Central Administration

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Interim Superintendent

**Dustin Cichocki**

Director of Human Resources

**Sonia Hodge**

Chief Financial Officer

**Heather Sneider**

Director of Special Education

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February 1, 2023

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2021-2022 educational progress for Lowell High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessments, accountability and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Steve Gough, Lowell High School Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by clicking [here](#). You may also review the report by visiting the Lowell Area Schools web site at [www.lowellschools.com](http://www.lowellschools.com) (click on Our District, Annual Notifications) 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 has at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2021-22. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has 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 is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has 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.

Our key initiatives revolve around our mission of high-quality learning, for every student, in every classroom, every day with primary interventions focusing on the bottom 30% of our students in regard to achievement as well as our students with disabilities. These students are identified as having achievement gaps, their specific performance is analyzed, and an individual plan is established to assist them in achieving effective growth expectancies and proficiency norms.

### Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Lowell Area Schools assigns pupils to specific school buildings based on their primary address.

### Status of the 3-5 Year Continuous Improvement Plan

Each building team within the District establishes goals for continuous improvement stemming from a variety of data sources including but not limited to M-STEP, SAT, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9, NWEA MAP, classroom assessments, perception surveys, and demographic data. The District School Improvement Plan and Building Improvement Plan go hand in hand in regards to services provided and action steps that will be implemented during the next 3-5 years. Our focus is on providing high-quality learning for every student, in every classroom, every day. Progress monitoring of student learning on a frequent and continual basis assists us in accomplishing goals. We have also implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention Support System (PBIS). This is part of a comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). In addition to academic needs, building plans are developed to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of students.

**We Value Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, Citizenship**

## **Description of School**

- Listed as the #59 High School in Michigan by US News and World Report
- Ranked in the top 5% of all high schools in Michigan and top 8% nationally by US News and World Report
- 70% of participating students earned qualifying scores on AP tests
- 12 Athletic Teams earning Academic All-State Recognition
- Mental Health Awareness Program delivered to all 9<sup>th</sup> graders annually
- SAT scores ranked Lowell as a top high school in Kent County
- Earned a composite SAT score of 1054 (higher than the national and state average)
- 79% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary education
- Awarded \$119,100 to graduating seniors through local and community scholarships
- Agri-science Vocational Education programs offered to students on campus
- Many outstanding service learning activities are provided (Pink Arrow, Freshman Service Learning, Senior Give Back)
- Comprehensive curriculum provided for all students through trimester scheduling
- 26 varsity athletic programs provided
- 30 extra-curricular clubs and organizations offered
- Comprehensive PBIS program in place (RED Rewards)
- Scaffolded career and college preparation opportunities for each grade level
- 32 student athletes earned Academic All State recognition
- Well-developed career awareness programs including career talks, job shadow and employability framework
- 15 AP Program courses

## **Core Curriculum**

Lowell Area Schools uses the Michigan Merit Curriculum as provided by the State at [www.michigan.gov](http://www.michigan.gov). Lowell Area Schools has implemented the Michigan Academic Standards which can be found at [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde). Lowell will continue to strive toward high-quality learning for every student. Providing an avenue for success of the essential content and skills each child needs for postsecondary experiences in a globalized world will be the focus. Each Building Leadership Team works with its teachers to provide collaboration time centered on individual student data of the curriculum to be learned. Planning for future instruction is centered on each student's mastery of the essential content and skills and demonstrating behavior expectations as identified within our Positive Behavior Intervention Support System (PBIS).

## **Student Achievement Results**

Lowell Area Schools uses a four tiered standardized testing program (SAT, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9) to monitor student achievement. The PSAT 8/9 test is given to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, the PSAT 10 test is given to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and the SAT is given to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. The PSAT series evaluates student's academic strengths and weaknesses and provides useful information on each student's individual skill set. This information is used to guide students and parents on the coursework that should be pursued at school and give insight to a career plan. It also helps staff identify student strengths and weaknesses for course placement and interventions.

The SAT test builds upon the PSAT test by expanding the difficulty of the questions. Each section test in Math, and English and Reading, will test student's comprehension and knowledge of the material. Students receive a score for each subject of these tests and an overall composite score. The SAT is the capstone of a College and Career Readiness System. The SAT test uses the same score scale as the PSAT test making the system an effective tool to monitor academic progress and student growth. Lowell students do very well on these tests. In general, they score above the national, state and county averages. Lowell Area Schools is proud of the achievement that takes place within its schools, and the PSAT and SAT tests are a source of data that proves this high level of achievement is indeed taking place.

## **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

2020-2021: 26% of parents attended the Fall Conferences. 28% of parents attended Spring Conferences.

2021-2022: 30% of parents attended the Fall Conferences. 22% of parents attended Spring Conferences.

## **Post-Secondary Information**

Dual Enrollment – 30

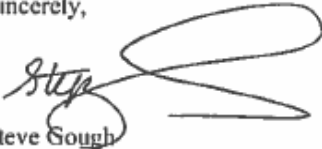
College Equivalent Courses Offered –15

Students Enrolled in College Equivalent Courses –398

Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit – 186, 70.45% of enrolled students

Lowell High School is ranked among the Nation's and State's top high schools by US News and World Report! LHS was also selected as a College Success Award recipient for a 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, for doing an outstanding job of preparing seniors for post-secondary success by greatschools.org and was recognized by Newsweek in 2019 as one of the top STEM Schools in the Nation. The Michigan Merit Exam scores once again ranked Lowell High School as a top high school in Kent County. In addition to these accolades, Lowell High School continues to be a leader in service learning projects. Extra-curricular activities continue to be an exceptional extension of the classroom including state championships, community service projects, model programs and an outstanding performing arts program. LHS currently offers over 25 clubs and activities in addition to our outstanding arts and athletic programs. We are sincerely thankful for the support of our community, the excellent work of our staff, and our outstanding students!

Sincerely,



Steve Gough  
Principal