



Kalkaska High School

*Staci Short, Principal
Aaron Ostrander, Assistant Principal
Bryan Hawkins, Athletic Director
Kalkaska High School*

February 13th, 2026

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2024-2025 educational progress for Kalkaska High School. 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 Staci Short for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website www.kpschools.com, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2025/2026 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 2024-2025. 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 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%, or failed to exit ATS status in 2024-2025. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given.

Our school was has not been given one of these labels.

Key challenges at Kalkaska High School include the subject areas of Math and ELA, and attendance. To address these issues, we continue to use curriculum that was newly employed in 2019, CPM in Math and My Perspectives in ELA. Both curricula employ preparation for the PSAT and SAT tests used by the State of Michigan for evaluative purposes. All teachers in these two disciplines receive ongoing training in the use of these tools to improve student achievement. We also continue to employ a Tier 2 and a Tier 3 Intervention Program in Math that identifies students with gaps in their learning and supports those gaps with mastery of necessary standards. Homework labs are available daily both before and after school. To address attendance issues, we are partnering with Communities in Schools, providing both incentives for good attendance and consequences for excessive absences.



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State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Kalkaska High School provides education to approximately 430 students in grades 9-12 for Kalkaska Public Schools. Our district in Northwestern Lower Michigan covers 440 square miles in Kalkaska County, and includes approximately 1300 students. All of the students in the district in grades 9-12 are assigned to the high school.
2. Kalkaska High School is in the 2nd year of a 3-year Strategic Plan. Each year, the District's School Improvement Committee, in coordination with the High School Improvement Committee, reviews student achievement, goals, and strategies in order to determine how to keep learning moving forward. These documents are available upon request. Please contact Staci Short.
3. Ninth through twelfth-grade students in our school district attend Kalkaska High School. As juniors and seniors, some students attend the Northwest Education Services Career Tech Center (CTC). This past year, over 80 students attended the vocational school. Northwest Ed. also provides center-based programming for CI and EI students.
4. KHS follows the Michigan Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for graduation. Curriculum maps for the courses are located on the district's website.
5. KHS 9th and 10th graders take the PSAT each spring, and 11th graders take the SAT. Spring 2024 results indicate that 30% of 9th-grade students met both benchmarks, 28% of 10th-grade students met both benchmarks, and 23% of 11th-grade students met both benchmarks in Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing. Spring 2025 results indicate that 33% of 9th-grade students met both benchmarks, 24% of 10th-grade students met both benchmarks, and 20% of 11th-grade students met both benchmarks in Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing. The 9th grade is above the state average for the spring 2025 test, with the 10th grade score being slightly below the state average, and the 11th grade score being 6% below the state average. Regarding the decline in the percentage of students meeting both benchmarks from the 2024 to the 2025 school year, high staff turnover in Math and ELA is affecting teacher efficacy at the middle and high school. This also impacts the use of the vetted and purchased curriculum, as new staff must be trained and have practice using it with fidelity.
6. Attendance at Fall 2024 Parent Teacher Conferences was 18%. Attendance at Fall 2025 Parent Teacher Conferences was 22%.

1. [All high schools are required to report on the following:](#)



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- a) In 2023/2024 11 students participated in college courses at Ferris State University either through traditional dual-enrollment or the early college program. This represents approximately 6% of the Junior Class and Senior Class. In 2024/2025 27 students participated in college courses at Ferris State University either through traditional dual-enrollment or the early college program. This represents approximately 13% of the Junior and Senior Class.
- b) In 2023/2024 7 AP Courses were offered at KHS. In 2024/2025 5 AP Courses were offered at KHS.
- c) In 2023/2024 59 students or 13% of our total enrollment were enrolled in an AP Class. In 2024/2025 54 students, or 12.5% of our total enrollment were enrolled in an AP Class. This represented 11% of 10th grade, 23% of 11th grade, and 20% of 12th grade.
- d) Of the 59 AP tests taken in 2024, 39 students (66%) received a score leading to college credit. Of the 62 AP tests taken in 2025, 39 students (63%) received a score leading to college credit.

Our vision is that “Kalkaska Public Schools will be a model of excellence in education and a source of community pride.” We recognize that our school community must offer layers of support to our families. In addition to academic supports, we provide social and emotional supports, and access to our Karen’s Kids Teen Pantry, which provides basic needs to struggling families and students. Additionally, we are supported by a Communities in Schools Site Coordinator and a Dropout Prevention Specialist. Additionally, we are taking steps to hire and retain quality staff in core teaching areas. We are proud of our school, and we remain committed to becoming one of the best schools in our intermediate school district.

Sincerely,

Staci L. Short

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Principal, Kalkaska High School