

## Hillman Elementary School

245 E. Third St.  
Hillman, MI 49746  
(989)742-4537 - phone  
(989)742-4509 - fax  
[www.hillmanschools.com](http://www.hillmanschools.com)



### Mission

To educate and inspire all students to achieve their maximum potential.

### Vision

Preparing our learning community for the reality of tomorrow.

### Core Values

Achievement – We will reach our goals!  
Excellence – We give our best!  
Integrity – We do the right thing!

January 21, 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 Hillman Elementary 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 Mrs. Crystal Vogt for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website <https://www.hillmanschools.com>, or you may 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 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 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school was identified as a Universal Support. Universal supports are available for all students and schools within the State of Michigan.

Hillman Elementary School is actively addressing areas for growth, as highlighted in the latest Annual Education Report, particularly regarding student achievement gaps and growth indices. The data shows that some groups of students, especially those from low-income backgrounds and students with disabilities, are making slower academic progress than other students. The Growth Index, a measure of student progress, reveals that while some grade levels are making steady improvements, the overall rate of progress is not yet sufficient to close these achievement gaps. In response to these challenges, the school has implemented a series of targeted initiatives aimed at accelerating student achievement. These include the introduction of differentiated instructional strategies, enhanced professional development for teachers, and tutoring programs for students needing additional support. The school is also using data to track students' progress more closely and create personalized learning plans to help them reach important goals. These efforts are aimed at making sure every student, no matter their background, gets the support they need to succeed.

One strength of Hillman Elementary is the Proficiency index. This upward trend demonstrates the effectiveness of targeted interventions and focused instructional strategies that have been implemented over the past year. Notably, students are showing marked improvement in core subjects such as mathematics and reading, with a higher percentage meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations. This progress reflects the school's commitment to fostering an environment of academic rigor and support, contributing to stronger student outcomes and increased overall achievement.

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State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. At Hillman Elementary, students are placed in grade levels based on their previous grade completion, as well as their test scores and assessments. Students who reside within the district are encouraged to register, while out-of-district students can apply for a waiver.
2. Hillman Elementary School is currently working through a Strategic Plan that supports student learning and district growth. Collaboration from teachers, students, parents and community members will help to support areas of strength and areas of improvement.
3. Hillman Elementary School is located at 245 E. Third Street, Hillman, MI. There are 199 students currently enrolled in grades K-5th for the 2024-2025 school year. This is a small increase from the previous school year. We will welcome Preschool for the 2025-2026 school year.
4. Each K-5 classroom at the school follows a core curriculum, with teachers using standards-based instruction to address the individual needs of every student. Pacing guides are being revised to align with shared texts in core subjects, promoting collaboration and enabling small group instruction. The curriculum is regularly evaluated through data collection, needs assessments, and feedback gathering to ensure it effectively supports student growth and learning.
5. Students at Hillman Elementary take the NWEA test three times a year—fall, winter, and spring. This assessment helps guide decisions on interventions and advancements throughout the school year. Data chats with teachers play a key role in shaping instruction to better meet the individualized needs of each student. Additionally, students use tools like Acadience and AMVR to track their progress and pinpoint areas where they may need extra support. Acadience provides a comprehensive reading assessment that covers skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, and vocabulary, while AMVR focuses on oral reading fluency. Together, these tools help provide targeted interventions based on each student's unique strengths and weaknesses, promoting more personalized and effective learning.
6. The school achieved 100% participation in Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences over the past two school years. This was accomplished through a combination of in-person meetings, parent phone calls, and virtual sessions, where discussions focused on student growth and development.

The staff and students at Hillman Elementary are dedicated to always giving their best. With a strong commitment to preparing our community for the future, we focus on educating and inspiring every student to reach their fullest potential. Together, we are building a foundation for success, empowering students to thrive and excel in all that they do.

Sincerely,

*Crystal Vogt*

Crystal Vogt

Principal Hillman Elementary School