



Holton Public Schools
“Rooted in Community, Reaching for Excellence”

Elementary Office – (231) 821-1825 • Middle School Office – (231) 821-1775
High School Office – (231) 821-1725 • Athletic Office – (231) 821-1930

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 12, 2024

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2022-23 educational progress for the Holton Virtual Academy. 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 Erik Carlson, Holton Virtual Academy Director, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://www.holtonschools.com/ourdistrict/administration/annual-reports/> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child’s school.

For the 2023-24 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 2022-23. 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 or had 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.

Combined Report Summary / Key Initiatives and Challenges

Holton Virtual Academy is focused on the improvement of student learning and achievement through the development of school programs and process characteristics that are continually improving. Holton Virtual Academy held the SAT



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test in the spring of 2023. Virtual Academy saw a decrease in average SAT score from 750 in the spring of 2022 to a score of 713 in 2023.

Holton Public Schools participates in the Muskegon Area Promise Scholarship during the 2022 – 2023 school year, and has provided free scholarships to Muskegon Community College and Baker College of Muskegon for eligible graduates of the Class of 2023. In regards to areas of improvement, Holton Virtual Academy has identified areas within its school improvement plan to continue this trend of improved learning opportunities for students, parents, staff members, and the greater school community. These areas of improvement will help the school accelerate student achievement, while also closing persistent gaps in student achievement.

Holton Virtual Academy will focus on providing intensive intervention supports to students in the areas of mathematics, reading, writing, science, and social studies so that we continue to progress toward meeting the proficiency targets outlined for each subject and content area, as well as grade level. This includes targeting specific subgroups for improvement as outlined within the school’s comprehensive needs assessment, as well as an improved sense of focus on the use of assessment data to improve the interventions and supports that we provide students.

Further, in addition to academic supports, the affective domains of positive behavior support, improved attendance and graduation rates, improved student career and college readiness levels within the district and increased parental involvement in decision making processes at Holton Virtual Academy have been identified as areas to strengthen within our system. State law requires that we also report the additional information outlined below.

Pupil Membership Assignment

Holton Virtual Academy serves students in 6th through 12th grade, and students are scheduled based on need and credit attainment according to the Michigan Merit Curriculum, and the policies set forth by the Board of Education at Holton Public Schools, while working in coordination with the student’s Educational Development Plan (EDP) developed using Xello, and/or any Personal Curriculum that may be developed for students based upon need. Approximately 40 students are assigned to the Holton Virtual Academy, based upon need or student request, and the criteria



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outlined with the student handbook for the non-traditional Virtual Academy program.

Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

Holton Virtual Academy is continually striving to improve the quality of education for our students. The Virtual Academy staff works together as a team to determine goals and objectives for increased student achievement based upon needs outlined within the various sources of achievement, demographic, process, and perception data that are collected at least annually. Our current school improvement goals at Holton Virtual Academy include:

- Goal 1: Increase Reading Proficiency
- Goal 2: Increase Writing Proficiency
- Goal 3: Increase Math Proficiency
- Goal 4: Increase Parental Involvement
- Goal 5: Increase Graduation Rate and Reduce Dropout Rate

Staff professional development is provided through continuous and ongoing in-services and education provided throughout the year in such areas as: differentiated instruction, literacy, data collection, assessments, and curriculum.

Specialized Schools

Our district provides educational alternatives, opportunities, and support for students with special needs. Special Education services include self-contained programs, resource programs, teacher consultant services, speech and language services, school social work services, psychological services, occupational therapy services, and physical therapy services. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meets with students and parents to determine the best supports a student needs to access the curriculum and succeed in school.

Holton Virtual Academy is a specialized school program providing secondary students with an opportunity to participate in an online virtual learning program. Our program is a Virtual Academy experience that includes components of both online learning, as well as opportunities for face to face interactions each week with



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the student’s assigned mentor. This program is intended for students seeking a non-traditional Virtual Academy experience, and operates on an approved seat time waiver from the Michigan Department of Education.

Core Curriculum

Holton Virtual Academy has implemented a curriculum plan, which integrates a foundation of academic knowledge with our District’s Learner Outcomes. Complete curriculum maps and a description of the curriculum’s implementation are posted on our website at www.holtonschools.com. There are not any variances from the State’s model. Our students, upon graduation, will demonstrate the necessary skills to be a/an:

- Life-long self-directed learner by using technology and selecting educational experiences to meet changing personal and work needs.
- Effective communicator by communicating written, visual, non-verbal and spoken languages.
- Collaborative contributor by using effective leadership and/or group skills to develop and manage interpersonal relationships within diverse settings.
- Goal setter by learning how to set achievable goals, to evaluate options to meet goals, and take action to accomplish them.
- Problem solver by learning to anticipate, access, attach, and resolve problems and challenges with a systemic process.
- Involved citizen by recognizing roles and responsibilities, contributing time, energy and talents to improving the welfare of self and others and the quality of life in the local and global communities.
- Complex thinker by identifying, accessing, integrating, and using available resources and information to reason, make decisions, and solve complex problems in a variety of situations.

Parent Participation

One of the key factors in providing excellent learning opportunities for students is strong, active parent participation. Holton Virtual Academy encourages parental



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involvement and is evident by their active role in our educational process, including monthly communication with parents.

Dual Enrollment

At this time, Holton Virtual Academy does not offer AP or IB classes, but relies on dual enrollment programming options, along with online program offerings in these areas to meet the needs of students who would traditionally enroll within these types of courses.

Closing Paragraph

Holton Virtual Academy is committed to continuous improvement and working to provide our students with a foundational education that will lead to post-secondary educational attainment and success. Our safe, caring, and small school environment ensures a focus on individual student needs, while being coupled with our creative instructional approaches to help engage students in the learning process. State law requires that we also report additional information.

Sincerely,

Erik Carlson, Principal
Holton Virtual Academy