



# CORNERSTONE

---

## SCHOOLS

---

### **Jefferson-Douglass Academy 2023-24 School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

February 24, 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 Jefferson-Douglass 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 Monica Thompson for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [\*\*LINK TO SCHOOL'S ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT\*\*](#), 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: Our school was not given one of these labels.

One of our key initiatives is the implementation of designated small instructional group time within the student schedule. This dedicated time allows for one-on-one interactions between teachers and students, ensuring that each learner receives

personalized support to address and fill any learning gaps they may be experiencing.

In conjunction with this initiative, our educators are collaborating closely with the instructional coach to explore and apply effective instructional techniques. By utilizing evidence-based strategies, teachers can enhance their instructional delivery and engage students more effectively, fostering a positive and productive learning environment.

Moreover, we continue to emphasize the importance of ongoing professional development, akin to our "Get Better Faster" approach. This initiative ensures that teachers receive targeted coaching and constructive feedback, allowing them to refine their practices and better meet the diverse learning needs of our students.

These efforts are part of a comprehensive strategy that includes the analysis and utilization of student performance data. At Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy, we regularly assess this data to identify improvement areas, track student progress, and implement targeted interventions. This data-driven approach guarantees that our resources and support are directed where they are most needed, enabling us to effectively address the individual needs of every student.

Furthermore, Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy deeply values the critical role of parental involvement and community partnerships in fostering student achievement. We actively engage parents through consistent communication, informative workshops, PTO meetings, and a variety of opportunities that encourage their active participation in their child's educational journey.

We are currently in the process of establishing a Community Engagement Board, which will include local businesses, churches, and organizations in our school neighborhood that support our students. This commitment to building robust community partnerships serves to enrich the educational experience by providing additional resources, mentorship programs, and a wide range of enrichment activities. These collaborations not only enhance learning but also create a supportive network that empowers students to thrive both academically and personally.

In accordance with state law, we are also required to report additional information to ensure transparency and accountability in our educational practices.

## 1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Our school is a state-funded, public school academy. Therefore, there is no cost to attend the Academy. The school is open to any child wishing to attend. Students must be age-appropriate for their respective grade, and they must reside in the

state of Michigan. By law, the school cannot restrict enrollment based on selection criteria. The school can, however, limit the total number of students who may attend the school. If the number of applications exceeds the number of offered seats, a random selection process will determine who attends the school.

## 2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been accepted by the State of Michigan as a good model for improvement. Via our data-driven SIP we will address our challenges in student achievement/gaps and overall customer satisfaction.

## 3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Cornerstone Jefferson - Douglass Academy is named after our Founding Father Thomas Jefferson, a spokesman for democracy, the principal author of the Declaration of Independence and the third President of the United States and the famous African American Frederick Douglass, one of the most intellectuals of his time, a national leader in the abolitionist movement, orator, and author who is famous for his first autobiography, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave. The dash between the two names represent our students' journeys as they live out the intentions of our founding fathers; the American dream, which was made possible by the advocacy of famous African Americans and civil rights heroes.

## 4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

Our school's rigorous instructional program is aligned with Michigan's Common Core State Standards and is established all grades in English Language Arts and Literacy in History, Social Studies, and Mathematics. The Common Core Standards can be accessed via the internet at Cornerstone Curriculum Resource Documents .

State law requires that we also report additional information

### 1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Our school is a state-funded, public school academy. Therefore, there is no cost to attend the Academy. The school is open to any child wishing to attend. Students must be age-appropriate for their respective grade, and they must reside in the state of Michigan. By law, the school cannot restrict enrollment based on selection criteria. The school can, however, limit the total number of students who may attend the school. If the number of applications exceeds the number of offered seats, a random selection process will determine who attends the school.

### 2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) has been accepted by the State of Michigan as a good model for improvement. Via our data-driven SIP we will address our challenges in student achievement/gaps and overall customer satisfaction.

3. At Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy, we are proudly “Charting a Better Course for Detroit’s Youth” through a commitment to excellence in education for students in grades K-8. Our mission is to Prepare our students to live the Complete Life, a virtuous life, a life of excellence in the unfolding of the American Promise. We believe in nurturing the whole child, viewing our students as valued customers deserving of the highest quality education. Our comprehensive program fosters student success through a standards-based curriculum that emphasizes rigorous academics and a diverse array of after-school activities, all within a safe and nurturing environment. We engage our students in innovative blended learning experiences that seamlessly integrate classroom instruction with cutting-edge educational technology. By utilizing powerful digital learning tools such as i-Ready and IXL, our students can progress at their own pace, taking ownership of their learning through self-directed lessons.
  
4. Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy’s instructional program is meticulously aligned with Michigan’s Common Core State Standards for K-8, covering English Language Arts, Literacy in History and Social Studies, and Mathematics. For detailed information about our curriculum, please visit [Cornerstone Schools Resources](#). We proudly utilize Curriculum Trak to ensure our educational offerings meet the highest standards of excellence. Join us in empowering Detroit’s youth to thrive academically and personally as they embark on their journey to success! Our school’s rigorous instructional program is aligned with Michigan’s Common Core State Standards and has established all grades in English Language Arts and Literacy in History, Social Studies, and Mathematics. The Common Core Standards can be accessed via the internet at [Cornerstone Curriculum Resource Documents](#).

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

Percent of Students at Grade Level on the i-Ready Benchmark Assessment

	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Reading	13%	33%	12%	35 %
Math	4%	15%	3%	21 %

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

	Fall %	Fall #	Winter %	Winter #
2022-23	70%	370	71%	378
2023-24	75%	393	70%	353

In closing, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and deepest appreciation to the entire Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy community for another successful year of academic excellence and growth! Your unwavering commitment to education and dedication to fostering a nurturing learning environment have truly made a significant impact on the lives of our students.

We celebrate the hard work and achievements of our remarkable students, the tireless efforts of our dedicated faculty and staff, and the steadfast support of our parents and guardians. Together, we have created a vibrant community that values knowledge, embraces diversity, and joyfully pursues excellence.

As we reflect on this past year's accomplishments, we recognize that there are always opportunities for growth and improvement. Yet, our commitment remains unwavering to work together to empower our students to become productive, successful citizens. Let us charge forward with renewed determination and enthusiasm, knowing that the future holds even greater possibilities. Congratulations once again on a truly remarkable year! May the coming years be filled with continued success, growth, and boundless joy for Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy, the Gem on the Eastside of Detroit!

Sincerely,



Monica Thompson  
Principal  
Jefferson-Douglass Academy