



# CORNERSTONE SCHOOLS

## Cornerstone Jefferson-Douglass Academy 2025-2026 School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 1, 2026

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2024-25 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 data file is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: [MiSchoolData - JDA](#). The AER is also available for you to review on the school's website: [Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2025-26 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 2024-25. 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 2024-25, 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 HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY OF THESE LABELS

Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy acknowledges the academic challenges reflected in the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP) results, as outlined in the Annual Education Report. The data reveals persistent achievement gaps, low proficiency rates in core content areas, and uneven academic growth

among student subgroups. While these outcomes are concerning, they serve as a **clear and urgent call to action** one the school has taken seriously and is actively addressing.

To improve student outcomes and close achievement gaps, Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy has implemented a comprehensive set of instructional and support strategies. The school has strengthened **tiered intervention systems** to ensure students receive targeted academic support based on their individual needs. These supports include small-group instruction, focused remediation, and enrichment opportunities designed to accelerate learning and promote mastery of grade-level standards.

The school has also prioritized **high-quality, standards-aligned instruction** across all classrooms. Teachers engage in collaborative planning to align lessons with state standards, analyze student work, and refine instructional practices. This collaborative approach ensures instructional consistency and helps teachers respond more effectively to student learning needs.

Professional learning remains a cornerstone of the school's improvement efforts. Educators participate in ongoing professional development focused on data analysis, differentiation, culturally responsive teaching practices, and instructional strategies that support diverse learners. Instructional leadership provides regular feedback and coaching to support continuous growth and accountability.

Data-driven decision-making is central to all academic initiatives. Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy routinely reviews formative, interim, and summative assessment data to monitor student progress, identify gaps, and adjust instruction in real time. This intentional use of data allows the school to deploy resources strategically and ensure that interventions are both timely and effective.

Beyond academics, the school recognizes the critical role of families and the broader community in supporting student success. Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy actively engages families through consistent communication, academic workshops, and opportunities for meaningful involvement in their child's education. The school also leverages community partnerships to provide additional academic support, mentorship, and enrichment opportunities that enhance the overall learning experience.

Through these coordinated efforts, Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy demonstrates a strong commitment to reflection, growth, and continuous improvement. The school is focused on strengthening instructional practices, supporting educators, and ensuring that every student receives the support necessary to succeed academically and thrive.

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. 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 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 2023	Spring 2024	Fall 2024	Spring 2025
Reading	11%	35%	12%	38%
Math	3%	21%	4%	24%

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

PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

	Fall %	Fall #	Winter %	Winter #
2023-24	75%	370	71%	378
2024-25	77%	405	79%	413

In closing, we proudly celebrate another impactful year at Cornerstone Jefferson Douglass Academy, a year marked by growth, resilience, and meaningful progress. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and deepest appreciation to our entire school community for your unwavering commitment to academic excellence and student success. Your dedication to creating a safe, supportive, and inspiring learning environment has made a lasting difference in our students' lives.

We commend our incredible students for their perseverance and achievements, our dedicated faculty and staff for their tireless efforts and passion for education, and our parents and guardians for their continued partnership and trust. Together, we have built a vibrant school community that values learning, honors diversity, and believes in the limitless potential of every child.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we do so with pride and optimism. Let us move forward with renewed energy, shared purpose, and bold expectations, confident that the best is yet to come. Congratulations on a remarkable year, and here's to even greater successes ahead.

Sincerely,

*Monica Thompson*

Principal Monica Thompson  
Jefferson-Douglass Academy