



Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy

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## Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter 2024-2025

February 6, 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 the Michigan Great Lakes 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 Kendall Schroeder, Head of School, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [MGLVA'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 **Comprehensive Support and Improvement School**.

One of the key challenges facing Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy identified in the Comprehensive Support and Improvement needs assessment is increasing support for students to engage and persist in the virtual school. The Student Support Team at MGLVA was created to support this need. Upon enrollment all students at MGLVA (preK-12) are assigned a dedicated Student Support Advisor as their point of contact for the school year. The MGLVA Community Engagement Specialist (CES) facilitates Introductory Parent Orientations and is dedicated to our Parents/Learning Coach community, preparing them for the virtual school experience. This orientation is required to ensure a successful school year. In addition, Student Support Advisors facilitate daily short orientation sessions for students during their first week and beyond. These are designed to help support parents/learning coaches and the students as they acclimate to the online environment and ensure a strong start at MGLVA. The Student Support Advisor

ensures students know the requirements of the program, can navigate various platforms, can access their daily plan, can log attendance, and stay active and engaged in the online classrooms with their teachers and peers. This added support system will help ensure students stay on track and are supported through graduation.

It is our goal to consistently improve student performance year after year. Virtual schools are unique and need an open mindset for learning. Building relationships with each student and family is a goal that is critical to implementing change. Setting expectations for improvement and striving to overcome the obstacles of this form of distance learning is imperative to our success. Active engagement of students, consistent review of instructional practices, identifying areas of need, and providing support for students within the virtual environment will continue to help our students reach their potential.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

### **Process for Assigning Pupils to the School**

The Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy (MGLVA) serves full-time students in grades preK-12 who meet the requirements for enrollment and who are residents of the state of Michigan or are foreign exchange students.

The Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy does not charge tuition and does not discriminate in its pupil admissions policies or practices based on intellectual or athletic ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, status as a student with a disability, or any other basis that would be illegal if used by a school district.

The Academy's open enrollment period will be for a duration of at least 2 weeks and the open enrollment times will include evening and weekend options. The deadline for accepting applications will be clearly stated on the enrollment section of the school website hosted on the K12 server, the K12 corporate website and at all information sessions and publications regarding enrollment for the school.

The MGLVA Board of Directors set an enrollment cap of 5000 students in grades peK-12 for the 2024-25 school year. There are several options for parents wanting to enroll in MGLVA during the open enrollment period. Options can be found on the [How To Enroll](#) section of the school's website.

Applications will be reviewed for age eligibility. Students must be 5 years of age on or before September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. If an application states that the student will not meet the age requirement for kindergarten, the parent will be contacted to confirm the date of birth before the student is deemed ineligible for the school. During the enrollment process, age eligibility will be verified by requiring a certified copy or original of the student's birth certificate before a student's enrollment is complete. Students who were enrolled at the Academy in the prior school year shall be admitted and enrolled. All current students' siblings who have compliant applications will be placed.

A student who is not 5 years of age on the enrollment eligibility date specified above, but will be 5 years of age not later than December 1 of a school year, the parent or legal guardian of that child may enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year if the parent or legal guardian notifies the school in writing of their intention to enroll their student in kindergarten.

After admitting and enrolling students who were enrolled at the Academy in the prior school year, if there are remaining seats in either the preK-8 or the 9-12 ranges, if the number of eligible applications for enrollment exceeds capacity for the preK-12 Program, a lottery will be held.

### **Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan**

Our team worked on and developed a school wide single district improvement plan for the upcoming school year. The goals of the plan are listed below with a brief description.

Goal 1	Increase graduation rate to a minimum of 67% by the 2024-25 school year.
Goal 2	Increase reading growth scores on benchmark assessments to 60%-70% of students reaching 50 SGP or higher and increasing proficiency on MSTEP by 2% for Grades 3-8.
Goal 3	Increase math growth scores on benchmark assessments to 51%-61% of students reaching 50 SGP or higher and increasing proficiency on MSTEP by 2% for Grade 3-8.
Goal 4	Increase attendance in all grades and decrease chronic absenteeism.

### **A Brief Description of Each Specialized School**

MGLVA is a single-building district and does not have additional specialized schools.

### **The Core Curriculum and Associated Programs**

The Online Learning System (OLS) for elementary grades, the Online Middle School (OMS), and the Online High School (OHS) programs are online platforms that provide enrolled students and families with access to a state-of-the-art curriculum designed to provide students with a mix of online lessons and offline activities. All parents are provided access to the MGLVA curriculum upon approval of enrollment. Curriculum alignment teams ensure that all curricula are aligned to state and Common Core Standards. Curriculum documents are available for review upon request at the Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy, 50 Filer St., Suite 324, Manistee, MI 49660.

### **Elementary School Program (Developmental Kindergarten – Grade 5)**

Our Elementary School Program serves students in Developmental Kindergarten through Grade 5. Each student is assigned a highly qualified, Michigan certified teacher who serves as the content teacher for Math, Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Additional electives are offered and taught by Michigan certified teachers. Parents are an integral part of the elementary program and serve as the Learning Coach (LC) to assist in communication between their student and the teacher, as well as monitor lessons and assessments, review student progress, and support student attendance. Students work with teachers and other classmates during live, online class sessions.

### **Middle School Program (Grades 6-8)**

Our Middle School Program serves students in grades 6-8. Each student is assigned a highly qualified, Michigan certified homeroom teacher, but also has separate content teachers for Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Health, Physical Education, Art, and Career-Readiness opportunities. In Middle School students become more independent and take on more responsibility and ownership of their work. Students work with their teachers and other classmates during live, online sessions.

### **High School Program (Grade 9-12)**

Our High School Program serves students in grades 9-12. Each student is assigned a highly qualified, Michigan certified homeroom teacher who acts as a main point of contact and support. The student also has highly qualified, Michigan certified teachers for Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and other electives, including a robust Career and College Prep program offerings. The Career and College Prep Program at MGLVA offers students the ability to develop skills in five key areas, which include Business Management and Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Finance, Information Technology, and Health Sciences. This program allows students the opportunity to develop partnerships with business and health care professionals in their desired field. More information can be found here: [MGLVA Career and College Prep](#).

### **Dual Enrollment/Advanced Coursework**

- The number and percentage of postsecondary enrollments (Dual Enrollment): 19 students (1.4% 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- The number of college equivalent courses offered (AP/IB): 17 AP courses offered
- The number and percentage of students enrolled in college equivalent courses (AP/IB): 9 students (1.1% 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade)
- The number and percentage of students receiving a score leading to college credit: 3 students took 6 exams; 2 students (66% tested) earned a score of a 3 or higher which is used for college credit.

The number and percentage of post-secondary enrollment (Dual Enrollment) at Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy high school Approximately 1.40% of students in 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grades participated in dual enrollment courses. No students enrolled in college equivalent IB courses. Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy offers 17 Advanced Placement (AP) courses in English, mathematics, science, history, and world languages. About 1.10% of students were enrolled in AP courses. The number of students earning a score of 3 or higher which is used for college credit was 2 of the 3 students who took the exams.

### **Early Middle College Program**

MGLVA offers students the option to enroll in the MGLVA + WSCC Early Middle College, a partnership with West Shore Community College. Students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade are eligible to apply for the early middle college. The MGLVA + WSCC EMC provides students with the opportunity to graduate with both a high school diploma and up to 60 college credits (e.g., industry-recognized credential, college certificate, associate degree) while in a program that focuses on and fosters academic growth,

personal growth, and maturity. For the 24-25 school year, 15 students are enrolled in the MGLVA + WSCC Early Middle College program.

### Aggregate Student Achievement Results on the local STAR 360 assessment

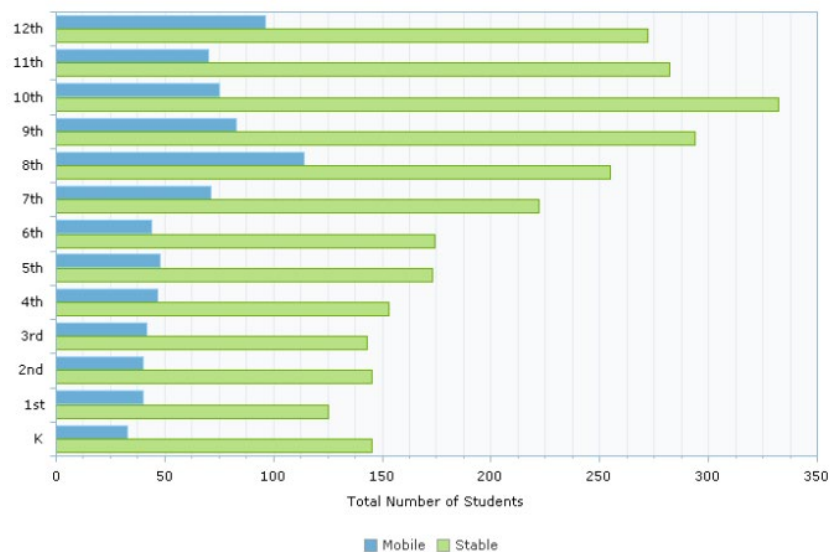
MGLVA students are given the STAR 360 assessment at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. The following data details the growth between the beginning and middle of the year assessments. MGLVA staff uses this data to help determine the next course of action for each student.

In 2023-24 School Year, MGLVA students in grade K-11 were given the STAR 360 assessment at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. This data details the percentage of Full Academic Year students who met their growth targets at the end of the year. More than 50% of students in 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades met or exceeded their growth targets in Math. More than 50% of students in all grades, except 9<sup>th</sup>, met or exceeded their growth targets in Reading.

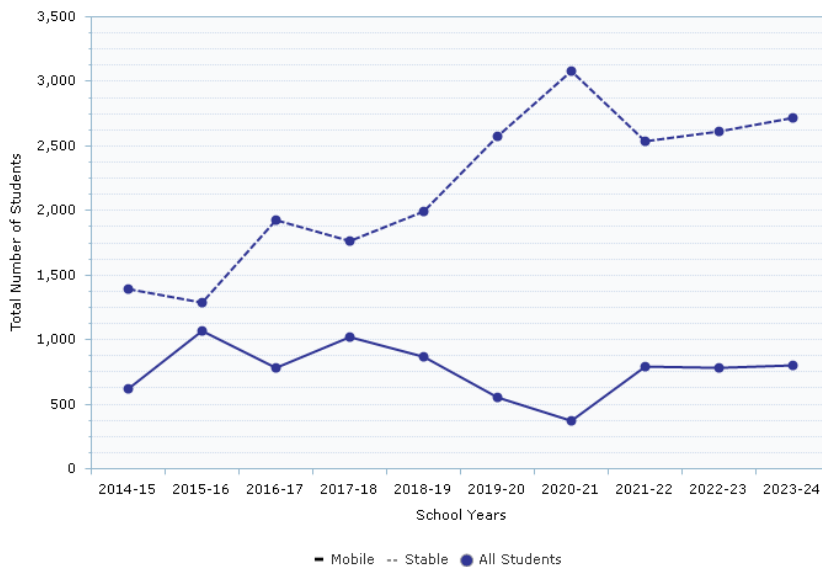
2023-2024 Academic Year		
% Meeting Growth on STAR360 Assessment		
Grade	Math	Reading
K	N/A	64%
1	N/A	57%
2	45%	59%
3	47%	59%
4	38%	57%
5	50%	60%
6	43%	55%
7	45%	57%
8	67%	57%
9	48%	44%
10	39%	53%
11	58%	54%
12	N/A	N/A

### Student Mobility

This chart compares the counts of mobile students (blue) to the counts of stable students (green) for MGLVA. A student is considered mobile if he or she is present for fall count day and then exits a school before the end of the school year or transfers into a school mid-year. Stable students remain enrolled in the same school for the entire school year.



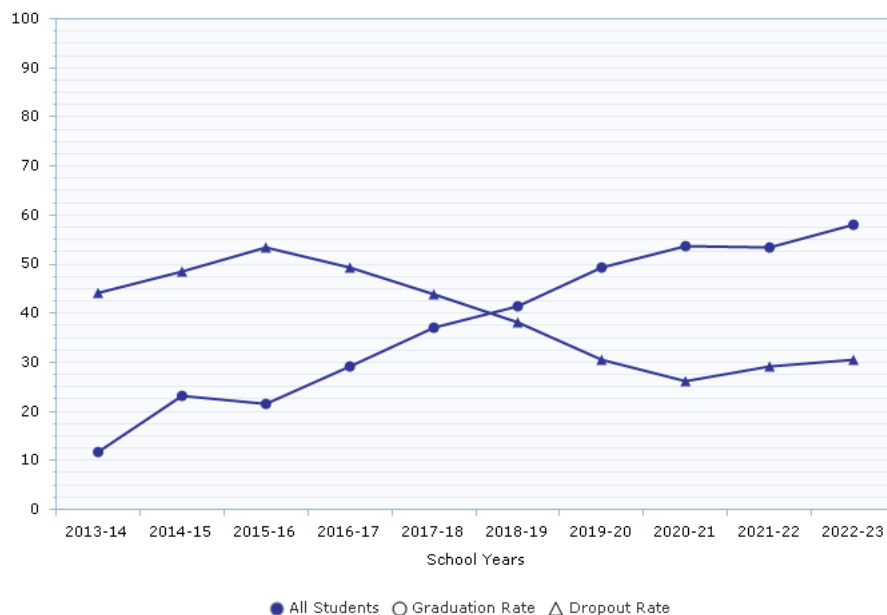
Over the past three years, as enrollment has increased, MGLVA has seen an increase in stability while mobile students have remained steady. (see chart below) The data are important because frequent mobility can disrupt student learning and have significant impacts on student growth, proficiency, and graduation rates.



## Graduation Rate

MGLVA has been identified as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school for having a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2021-22 school year. Supporting students in high school continues to be a focus. Providing social-emotional support, as well as academic remediation and stabilization, to increase graduation rate and reduce dropout rates has had positive effects.

The chart below shows a positive trend in 4-year graduation cohort for MGLVA students and a decrease in dropout rates over the past several years.



## **Curriculum**

All parents are given access to the MGLVA curriculum upon approval of enrollment. Curriculum alignment teams ensure that all curricula are aligned to state and Common Core Standards. Curriculum documents are available at the Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy, 50 Filer Street, Suite 324, Manistee, MI 49660, for your review at any time and on our website at <https://mglva.k12.com>

## **The Number and Percent of Students Represented by Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences**

In our model, parents interact on a consistent basis with teachers as we have a collaborative partnership to ensure student success. In K-5, Individual Learning Plan (ILP) conferences are held 2 times per year. In Middle School (Grade 6-8), parent conferences are held twice per year. At the high school level, conferences are held throughout the year at the parent, teacher, or student request.

## **Conclusion**

It is our goal to consistently improve student performance, including graduation rate, year over year. Virtual schools are unique and need an open mindset for learning. Building relationships with each student and family is a goal that is crucial to implementing change. Setting expectations for improvement and striving to overcome the obstacles of this form of "distance learning" is imperative to our success. Active and early engagement of students, consistent review of instructional practices, identifying areas of need, and providing the support needed within the virtual environment will continue to help our students reach their potential.

Sincerely,



Kendall Schroeder  
Executive Director/Head of School  
Michigan Great Lakes Virtual Academy