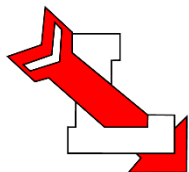


# LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

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Lowell High School  
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February 1, 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 Lowell High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessments, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Steve Gough, Lowell High School Principal for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by clicking [here](#). You may also review the report by visiting the Lowell Area Schools web site at [www.lowellschools.com](http://www.lowellschools.com) (click on Our District, Annual Notifications) or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

## High School Administration

**Stephen Gough**  
Principal

**Patrick Russell**  
Assistant Principal/Athletic  
Director

**Jennifer Manion**  
Assistant Principal

**Travis Slanger**  
Dean of Students

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 has not been given one of these labels.

Our key initiatives revolve around our mission of high-quality learning for every student in every classroom, every day with primary interventions focusing on the bottom 30% of our students in regard to achievement, as well as our students with disabilities. These students are identified as having achievement gaps, their specific performance is analyzed, and an individual plan is established to assist them in achieving effective growth expectancies and proficiency norms.

## Central Office Administration

**Nate Fowler**  
Superintendent

**Dustin Cichocki**  
Director of Human Resources

**Dan VanderMeulen**  
Director of Curriculum

**Sonia Hodge**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Liz McCall**  
Director of Special Education

### Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Lowell Area Schools assign pupils to specific school buildings based on their primary address.

### Status of the 3-5 Year Continuous Improvement Plan

Each building within the District works on goals for continuous improvement stemming from a variety of data sources including but not limited to M-STEP, SAT, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9, NWEA MAP, classroom assessments, perception surveys, and demographic data. The District School Improvement Plan details action steps that will be implemented during the next 3-5 years. Our focus is on providing high-quality learning for every student, in every classroom, every day. Progress monitoring of student learning on a frequent and continual basis assists us in accomplishing goals. We have also implemented a Positive Behavior Intervention Support System (PBIS). This is part of the comprehensive Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS). In addition to academic needs, building plans are developed to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of students.

## **Description of the School**

- Once again ranked among the top high schools in the State and Nation by [US New and World Report](#)
- Recognized by the College Board as a [AP Honor Roll School](#)
- 80% of participating students earned qualifying scores on AP tests
- 14 Athletic Teams earning Academic All-State Recognition
- Mental Health Awareness Program delivered to all 9th graders annually
- SAT scores ranked Lowell as a top high school in Kent County
- Earned a composite SAT score of 1056 (higher than the national and state average)
- 73% of graduating seniors enroll in post-secondary education
- Awarded nearly \$120,000 to graduating seniors through local and community scholarships
- Agri-science Vocational Education programs offered to students on campus
- Many outstanding service learning activities are provided (Pink Arrow, Senior Give Back)
- Comprehensive curriculum provided for all students through trimester scheduling
- 29 varsity athletic programs provided
- 30 extra-curricular clubs and organizations offered
- Comprehensive PBIS program in place (Red Rewards)
- Scaffolded career and college preparation opportunities for each grade level
- 47 student athletes earned Academic All State recognition
- Well-developed career awareness programs including career talks, job shadow and employability framework
- 16 AP Program courses
- Comprehensive MTSS program including a highly successful Tier 2 Intervention/Enrichment program (Flex Time) which has resulted in a course failure rate below 3%.

## **Core Curriculum**

Lowell Area Schools use the Michigan Merit Curriculum as provided by the State at [MI Merit](#). Lowell Area Schools has implemented the Michigan Academic Standards which can be found at [MI Standards](#). Lowell will continue to strive toward high-quality learning for every student. Providing an avenue for success of the essential content and skills each child needs for postsecondary experiences in a globalized world will be the focus. Each Building Leadership Team works with its teachers to provide collaboration time centered on individual student data of the curriculum to be learned. Planning for future instruction is centered on each student's mastery of the essential content and skills and demonstrating behavior expectations as identified within our Positive Behavior Intervention Support System (PBIS).

## **Student Achievement Results**

Lowell Area Schools uses a four-tiered standardized testing program (SAT, PSAT 10, PSAT 8/9) to monitor student achievement. The PSAT 8/9 test is given to 8th and 9th grade students, the PSAT 10 test is given to 10th grade students and the SAT is given to 11th grade students. The PSAT series evaluates student's academic strengths and weaknesses and provides useful information on each student's individual skill set. This information is used to guide students and parents on the coursework that should be pursued at school and give insight to a career plan. IT also helps staff identify student strengths and weaknesses for course placement and interventions.

The SAT test builds upon the PSAT test by expanding the difficulty of the questions. Each section tests in Math, English, Reading, and will test student's comprehension and knowledge of the material. Students receive a score for each subject of these tests and an overall composite score. The SAT is the capstone of a College and Career Readiness System. The SAT test uses the same score scale as the PSAT test making the a system an effective tool to monitor academic progress and student growth. Lowell students do very well on these tests. In general, they score above the national, state, and county averages. Lowell Area Schools is proud of the achievement that takes place within its schools, and the PSAT and SAT tests are a source of data that proves this high level of achievement is indeed taking place.

## **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

2022-2023: 26% attended fall conferences. 21% attended winter conferences. 15% attended spring conferences.

2023-2024: 24 % attended Fall Conferences. 23 % attended winter conferences. 14 % attended spring conferences.

## **Post-Secondary Information**

- Students Enrolled in Dual Enrollment - 39
- Total Number of Dual Enrollment Courses - 66
- Student Receiving Credit for Dual Enrolment - 38
- College Equivalent Courses Offered - 16
- Students Enrolled in College Equivalent Courses - 275
- Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit - 219, 79.64% of enrolled students

Lowell High School is ranked among the Nation's and State's top high schools by US News and World Report! LHS was also selected as a College Success Award recipient for a 6th consecutive year, for doing an outstanding job of preparing seniors for postsecondary success by greatschools.org. The Michigan Merit Exam scores once again ranked Lowell High School as a top high school in Kent County. In addition to these accolades, Lowell High School continues to be a leader in service learning projects. Extracurricular activities continue to be an exceptional extension for the classroom including state championships, community service projects, model programs and an outstanding performing arts program. LHS currently offers over 25 clubs and activities in addition to our outstanding arts and athletic programs. We are sincerely thankful for the support of our community, the excellent work of our staff, and our outstanding students!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Gough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "Gough", which features a large, sweeping "G" and "H".

Steve Gough  
Principal