



Lincoln Alternative High School

645 Alger Street
Owosso, MI 48867
989-725-2839 Fax: 989-729-6706

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 20, 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 Lincoln Alternative High School. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about accountability, student assessment, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Ms. Carrie Rugenstein for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: [Lincoln AER Report](http://www.owosso.k12.mi.us) (<http://www.owosso.k12.mi.us>) 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 group in 2024-25. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had at least one student group 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%, failed to exit CSI 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 status label is given.

Our school was identified for: Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI)

Lincoln Alternative High School services students who are credit deficient. As such, a challenge for many of the students attending Lincoln High School is the ability to graduate with their cohort in four years time. This challenge has a significant impact on our graduation rates in regards to the school performance index. The existence of this program is one initiative being utilized by the district to increase graduation rates. Lincoln High School was intentionally structured on a trimester system which allows for more credits to be earned in an academic year than the traditional high school. Additional initiatives to increase credit recovery are the use of before and after school tutoring options as well as an "Approaches to Learning" course for every student to either select an additional course or receive support for their other academic classes.

An additional challenge that creates a barrier to graduation and academic success is attendance. Our program's most important task is to engage students in learning through unique curriculum offerings while still meeting the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for

a diploma. Lincoln offers virtual, in person and hybrid formats for learning to address student barriers to learning which affect attendance. These barriers include but are not limited to homelessness, transportation, the need to maintain full time employment while attending school and parenthood.

For the 2023-2024 school year Lincoln Alternative High School applied for a clock hour waiver which allows our students to start at either 7:45 am or 8:40am. This flexibility was given for several reasons. We are able to provide a more flexible schedule for students to improve attendance. The "zero hour" provides virtual mentoring time for those who choose to be a virtual student and allows face to face students to either receive tutoring before school or take an additional course online.

An additional challenge for many Lincoln High School students are the gaps in knowledge from chronic absenteeism throughout their educational careers. We are actively working on ways to identify gaps in knowledge through our use of programs like DELTA Math, prescriptive testing on Edgenuity, targeted interventions in math, reading and writing. Lincoln employs four full time instructional aides for additional support in our classrooms as well.

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Students come to Lincoln High School most frequently with a referral from Owosso High School or due to being credit deficient at a neighboring school district. Students may also come to Lincoln after having challenging behavior in their home district that had proven to be difficult to manage in the traditional high school setting or due to high levels of anxiety and needing a smaller school setting. Students also come to Lincoln High School because they just do not "fit in" to the traditional high school setting. Not every school can meet the needs of every student. A student would traditionally not come to Lincoln High School without a meeting with his or her parents, the administration of Lincoln High school and consultation with the traditional high school making the referral.

THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Lincoln High School continues to work very hard to implement strategies to meet the needs of our students. Our official status in our 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan is "Ongoing". Outcome data is assessed and revisions are made to instruction delivery to ensure we are doing our best to help students and teachers improve. The school improvement plan is available upon request.

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Lincoln High School is a Class C alternative high school with grades 9 - 12. Approximately 90% of the total high school population qualifies for free and reduced breakfast and lunch programs, although we offer free breakfast and lunch to all students with a district grant. A variety of course offerings are available to meet the needs of the student population. Students are placed into the courses that they need to graduate. We offer core classes, which include math, English, science, and social studies, along with appropriate levels of classes to meet individual student's needs. We offer a smaller educational setting, differentiated instruction and teaching styles to meet the needs of individual learners. We also offer a full menu of online options in both Core and Elective areas. Extracurricular coed sports, Social Emotional Learning weekly, service learning opportunities, a student leadership group and several other after school clubs based on

student interests. We also participate in Dual Enrollment options for eligible students.

ACCESS TO CORE CURRICULUM

Access to Core Curriculum, a description of its implementation and an explanation of the variances from the State's model is available at the Owosso Public Schools District Office. Lincoln High School continues to maintain an aligned core curriculum based upon the MDE's Michigan Merit Curriculum and high school content expectations. This is accomplished through a curriculum mapping process. The Lincoln High School teaching staff participates in the development and implementation of curriculum mapping guides to address the current needs of our student population.

THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS

Lincoln High School participates in the MSTEP, Workkeys and SAT exams. In the 2024-2025 school year our average SAT score was 720 up from 714 in the 2023-2024 school year. Lincoln High School students oftentimes have a history of a lack of academic success on standardized testing. This is due to several factors, but the credit deficiency of our students indicates that they have not successfully completed 11th grade curriculum prior to taking the MME suite of assessments. Lincoln Students have access to all core curriculum and well differentiated instruction. We have implemented academic interventions such as math support, the use of Delta Math, Lexia and before school tutoring. Additionally we are supplementing math and science instruction with the use of PRISMS, a virtual reality program in which students apply core content knowledge. We are providing real world experiences for students through career readiness and academic rigor. Lincoln High School continues to work closely with our Curriculum Director to establish accurate and appropriate assessments for Lincoln students.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE REPRESENTATION

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled twice a year for LHS students and parents. Parents are encouraged to meet their student's teachers and discuss their academic and social progress. The administrator and social worker are available to discuss any aspect of student life. Parents are encouraged to contact their student's administrator or teachers any time they have questions about their progress. In the 2024-2025 school year, we saw parent participation in our open house, parent teacher conferences and school communications remain constant at around 41%. We are continuously finding new ways to increase communication between home and school to improve student success.

AP CLASSES/DUAL ENROLLMENT

In the 2024-2025 school year, we had two (2) students participating in dual enrollment. For 2023-2024 we continued to have two (2) students participate. We are actively working on increasing participation in this program. Lincoln High School does not offer AP Courses at this time, as most of our students are working to recover lost credits due to previous course failure. We have added the opportunity to earn credit through work based learning to assist our students in gaining work experience, while gaining credit and their diploma. In 2023-2024 we had five (5) students earn credit through work based learning. In 2024-2025 we maintained 5 students earning work based learning credit.

Lincoln High School staff is committed personally and professionally to the students that

attend Lincoln High School. Our teachers are continuously seeking opportunities to diversify the learning opportunities and provide instruction in creative ways to engage all learners. Lincoln High School offers students a safe learning environment to achieve their personal and academic goals. Lincoln High School is pleased to be an educational opportunity for many students from Shiawassee County. As a school identified as a CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement) we are actively implementing strategies to increase graduation rates, proficiency and attendance. We will continue evaluating our data and making informed decisions to positively impact our students.

Sincerely,

Ms. Carrie Rugenstein, Principal