



2191 Harwood Road  
Ionia, MI 48846  
(616) 527-2921  
[ioniaisd.org](http://ioniaisd.org)

*Partners in building full potential.*

## School Annual Education Report (AER)

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 Freedom Acres School. 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 Angela Miller for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [MISchool Data](#), 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. Freedom Acres School was not given one of these labels.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

At Freedom Acres, a center-based school, we are deeply committed to honoring the unique milestones and learning achievements of our students. Unlike traditional K-12 settings, our students' educational goals are individualized and developed through a highly collaborative, data-driven process. These goals are established by each student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team during facilitated IEP meetings and are designed to reflect the student's specific needs, abilities, and potential.

IEP meetings are conducted annually, and we place a strong emphasis on family engagement and transparency. Parents are provided with a copy of their [procedural safeguards](#) at multiple points throughout the year: at the beginning of the school year, with the IEP meeting invitation, during the IEP meeting itself, and copies are always readily available on the meeting table. This

ensures families are fully informed and empowered participants in the educational planning process.

Our IEP teams utilize a comprehensive approach in developing prescriptive, measurable goals. These goals are informed by a combination of student data, grade-level content expectations, and the Essential Elements—a framework designed to support access to the general education curriculum for students with significant cognitive disabilities. These personalized goals may include, but are not limited to: building-wide participation in school activities, toileting independently, using utensils or feeding oneself, understanding consequences, managing personal behavior, meeting adapted physical education objectives, receiving nursing support (feeding tubes, breathing treatments, cough assist, & more), or increasing independent movement. Maximizing student movement is a targeted priority outlined in our MICIP ([Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process](#)) plan, reflecting our commitment to supporting the physical development and independence of all learners.

While some of these goals may appear simple to an outside observer, they often represent an entire year's worth of commitment, persistence, and growth for both students and staff. These milestones, no matter how incremental, reflect significant developmental and academic progress. We celebrate each achievement, recognizing the hard work, patience, and determination that it takes to reach them.

At Freedom Acres, we believe every student deserves to have their success acknowledged and their journey respected. Our educators, support staff, and families work in close partnership to ensure that every student is supported in realizing their full potential. The progress made by our students, and the dedication of the staff who support them, deserve our highest praise and continued celebration.

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

Students in Ionia County's five local districts are assigned to the Freedom Acres School through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process. IEP teams walk through the ICISD Referral Process to determine a student's [Least Restrictive Environment](#).

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

The School Improvement Team maintains a dynamic five-year School Improvement Plan that is continuously reviewed and revised to reflect the evolving demographics and diverse needs of our student population. This ongoing process ensures that our goals and strategies remain responsive and effective. Core areas of focus include Literacy and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), both approached through a trauma-informed lens. In addition, we prioritize the MOVE (Mobility Opportunities Via Education) program and the promotion of optimal independence for all learners. Central to our school culture is a strong commitment to restorative practices. Restorative principles are embedded in our daily routines and interactions, fostering a supportive, inclusive environment where relationships, accountability, and community well-being are prioritized.

## **Core Curriculum**

Freedom Acres School staff implement the Common Core State Standards, as well as the Common Core State Standards Essential Elements. Each IEP team determines the most appropriate standards for each student through the IEP facilitation process.

## **Parent Teacher Conferences**

2022-23

Number of students represented by parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences: 46

Percent of students represented by parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences: 87%

2023-24

Number of students represented by parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences: 44

Percent of students represented by parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences: 94%

## **Post-Secondary Enrollment (Dual Enrollment)**

2022-23

Number of Students: 0

Percent of Students: 0%

2023-24

Number of Students: 0

Percent of Students: 0%

## **College Equivalent Courses (IB/AP)**

2022-23

Number of Courses Offered: 0

Number of Students Enrolled: 0

Percent of Students Enrolled: 0%

Number of Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit: 0

Percent of Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit: 0%

2023-24

Number of Courses Offered: 0

Number of Students Enrolled: 0

Percent of Students Enrolled: 0%

Number of Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit: 0

Percent of Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit: 0%

At Freedom Acres, our instructional vision centers on inclusive, universally designed learning where all students access grade-level or individualized targets. Grounded in relational capacity, instruction is explicit, data-driven, rigorous, and fosters self-directedness, nurturing the whole child through prescriptive feedback and a shared commitment to growth, belonging, and global readiness. If I can be of service to you and your family, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Angela Miller

Freedom Acres School, Principal