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THE MICHIGAN CONTEXT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

— PUBLIC ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS, 2025 —

BY MOLLY MACEK





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The Mackinac Center for Public Policy

The Michigan Context and Performance Report Card: Public Elementary and Middle Schools, 2025

By Molly Macek

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Introduction

This is the fifth edition of the Context and Performance Report Card for Michigan elementary and middle schools.* It was first published in 2013 and then biannually until 2019. The CAP Report Card was not published in 2021 and 2023. The Mackinac Center plans to publish this elementary and middle school assessment biannually again.

The CAP Report Card compares Michigan public schools' relative performance by accounting for the impact student poverty has on academic achievement. Schools serving more students from low-income households tend to have lower average test results. Without this adjustment, school report cards could overrate the effectiveness of schools serving primarily affluent students or underrate the effectiveness of schools serving primarily low-income students.

The CAP analysis attempts to neutralize this effect and ranks public schools based on how well they perform given the socioeconomic status of their student population. While this is an improvement to comparing schools on raw test score averages, the CAP Report Card should not be seen as the only way to assess school performance. There are limitations to this approach.†

The CAP Report Card uses multiple years of student achievement data. The previous editions relied on three or four years of academic performance data — based on either the old Michigan Educational Assessment Program, or MEAP, or the current Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress, or M-STEP. This 2025 report card uses M-STEP data from the past three years — 2022, 2023 and 2024 — to calculate an average grade for each school.

The current report excludes data from the 2020 and 2021 school years. Standardized testing was disrupted during these years due to the state's response to the COVID-19 emergency. The M-STEP was canceled in 2020 and made optional in 2021. This report includes an analysis of schools' progress in recovering learning losses incurred by students during the pandemic-era school closures and disruptions.

CAP Report Card scores are relative; they are based on comparing public schools to each other. Therefore, it does not create a benchmark for a "good school." A high CAP Score means only that a public school performs well compared to its peers. The data from standardized tests used in this report card is just one measure to assess school performance. There are many other elements of a school's performance that impact students, parents and taxpayers.

* Some language contained in this report appears in previous Mackinac Center publications.

† These limitations are discussed in previous publications. See, Michael Van Beek, Daniel Bowen and Jonathan Mills, "The 2012 Michigan Public High School Context and Performance Report Card" (Mackinac Center for Public Policy, July 19, 2012), <https://www.mackinac.org/S2012-05>; Ben DeGrow and Michael Van Beek, "Critique of CAP Report Card Fires Blanks" (Mackinac Center for Public Policy, April 24, 2019), <https://www.mackinac.org/critique-of-cap-report-card-fires-blanks>; Ben DeGrow and Ronald Klingler, "The Michigan Context and Performance Report Card: Public Elementary and Middle Schools, 2019" (Mackinac Center for Public Policy, February 11, 2020), <https://www.mackinac.org/S2020-01>.

Data and Methods

The methodology used in this report card is based on a 2006 University of Arkansas study and previously published Mackinac Center report cards. It uses regression analysis to predict how well each school would perform given the socioeconomic makeup of their students and given the average test scores of other schools. Schools are ranked by how well they performed on state standardized tests relative to their predicted performance based on the socioeconomic status of their students.

Identifying Students' Socioeconomic Status

This report measures student socioeconomic status by using data collected for the federal National School Lunch Program. Statistics from the Michigan Department of Education show the percentage of students who qualify to receive lunch assistance based on their household income. These data are used to generate each CAP Score. In 2024, a student from a family of four with an annual household income of \$39,000 or less would qualify for a federally subsidized free lunch. The percentage of a school's students eligible for a free lunch is the strongest predictor of a school's performance on the M-STEP.

Measuring Schools' Average Academic Achievement

The three most recent years of available standardized test results for grades three through eight — school years ending in 2022, 2023 and 2024 — were used to generate this publication's CAP Scores. A school's total CAP Score is an average of the CAP Scores over these three years. Each grade level of a school was equally weighted to determine a yearly CAP Score, regardless of the different number of tests administered at different grade levels.

For the past three years, the M-STEP program tested Michigan students in both mathematics and English language arts in grades three through seven, and in science and social studies in grades five and eight. The College Board's Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, or PSAT, was administered in grade eight to assess the students' proficiency in mathematics and English.

A school's overall CAP Score incorporates as many as 48 test scores over the three-year period. Depending on the grade levels of students served in the school, up to 16 different individual test results may factor into the CAP Scores for each year included in the analyses.

Graphic 1: M-STEP and PSAT Tests Used for CAP Scores

Year	ELA	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies	Total
2022	Grades 3-8	Grades 3-8	Grades 5, 8	Grades 5, 8	16
2023	Grades 3-8	Grades 3-8	Grades 5, 8	Grades 5, 8	16
2024	Grades 3-8	Grades 3-8	Grades 5, 8	Grades 5, 8	16

Most schools do not generate scores from all 48 possible tests. Schools that do not serve students in all grades three through eight will have fewer test results included in their score. Some schools have so few students in some grades that the state does not report their average score. In order to be included in the sample, a school must have a minimum of six average scale scores from the tested years. About 95% of public schools had at least six test scores available over the three years included in this analysis.

Schools designated as “alternative education” schools, or those that primarily and exclusively serve students with special needs, were removed from the sample. Public schools that were closed in the 2024 school year were also removed.

To generate a score, subject test scores were first normalized for each grade and year. The CAP Scores for each grade-level test in a given year were averaged to determine average grade-level scores. These were then averaged to create a yearly CAP Score for the school. These annual CAP Scores were then averaged to generate a school’s overall CAP Score.

Scores are reported on a scale centered on 100. This means a CAP Score of 100 indicates that a school performed exactly as expected, given the socioeconomic status of its student population. A score greater than 100 means a school exceeded its expectations, while a score below 100 means a school performed below expectations.

For information about how CAP Scores are computed see “Appendix A: Calculating CAP Scores and Letter Grades.”

Classifying Schools

A total of 2,188 Michigan public elementary and middle schools received an overall CAP Score for this edition. The number is down slightly from the 2,203 schools in the 2019 report card. Nearly 88% are conventional schools operated by a geographically based school district. Just under 12% are public charter schools that operate independently. There are 11 district-run schools with selective admission policies that require students to demonstrate a certain level of academic skill to enroll.

Graphic 2: Types of Public Elementary and Middle Schools

School Type	Number of Schools	Percentage of Schools
Conventional	1,916	87.6%
Charter	261	11.9%
Selective	11	0.5%
Total	2,188	100%

Source: Author’s calculations based on analysis of MDE data.

As in previous editions, schools that receive CAP Scores have been broken down by geographic “locale codes.” These codes indicate whether a school is located in an urban, suburban, town or rural area, as assigned by the federal National Center for Education Statistics. Descriptions of each locale category can be found in “Appendix B: Locale Codes.”

Graphic 3: Public Elementary and Middle Schools by Locale

Locale	Number of schools	Percentage of Total
City	506	23%
Suburb	847	39%
Town	237	11%
Rural	598	27%

Source: Author’s calculations using NCES and MDE data.

2025 Selected Results

The following tables show selected results from this report card, including the top- and bottom-scoring 100 public elementary and middle schools. It is not feasible to list all 2,188 ranked schools in this publication; however, interested readers can find an online database of all schools at <https://www.mackinac.org/CAP2025>.

Top 100 Public Elementary and Middle Schools

Dearborn STEM Middle School earned the top ranking on the CAP Report Card. As in previous years, its district, Dearborn Public Schools, has maintained an impressive representation on the report card, with five schools in the top 30 and 12 of its 30 schools in the top 100. Dearborn is the third largest district in Michigan behind Utica and Detroit. Detroit Public Schools only placed one school on this top 100 list, and Utica did not register any.

Other noteworthy districts in this regard were Warren Consolidated Schools and Grand Rapids Public Schools. Warren landed three of its 17 schools in the top 100, while Grand Rapids placed three of its 39 schools.

Charter schools, making up 12% of the schools in this report, accounted for 22% of the top 100 schools. Four such schools earned scores high enough to place them in the top 10.

Second overall is Pembroke Academy, a charter school in Detroit that also received a National Blue Ribbon Award in 2024 in the category of “Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing Schools.” Hamtramck Academy placed in the top 10 for the third consecutive time. A neighboring charter school in Detroit, Frontier International School, ranked fourth on the list, and two small charter schools in the Upper Peninsula — DeTour Arts and Technology Academy and Three Lakes Academy — placed in the top 100.

Top 100 Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Table Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
1	Dearborn STEM Middle School	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	24	140.35	99.95%	A
2	Pembroke Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	46	138.40	99.91%	A
3	Rankin Elementary School	Conventional	Carman-Ainsworth	Rural	24	132.12	99.86%	A
4	Frontier International Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	28	130.00	99.82%	A
5	Hamtramck Academy	Charter	Hamtramck	Suburb	48	128.89	99.77%	A
6	Middle School Math. Science Tech. Center	Selective	Warren	City	18	128.32	99.73%	A
7	Noor International Academy	Charter	Sterling Heights	Suburb	28	128.23	99.68%	A
8	Cedar Crest Elementary School	Conventional	Greenville	Town	24	127.53	99.63%	A
9	Iris Becker Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	125.24	99.59%	A
10	Bear Lake Elementary School	Conventional	Bear Lake	Rural	30	123.86	99.54%	A
11	River Oaks Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	24	123.08	99.50%	A
12	Lowrey Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	122.70	99.45%	A
13	Harwood Elementary School	Conventional	Warren	Suburb	24	122.69	99.41%	A
14	Weidman Elementary School	Conventional	Chippewa Hills	Rural	12	122.61	99.36%	A
15	Marion Elementary School	Conventional	Marion	Rural	26	122.12	99.31%	A
16	Vanderbilt Charter Academy	Charter	Holland	City	48	122.09	99.27%	A
17	Hale Area School	Conventional	Hale	Rural	48	121.78	99.22%	A
18	Avondale Gifted and Talented	Selective	Avondale	Suburb	48	121.64	99.18%	A
19	Kingston High School	Conventional	Kingston	Rural	18	121.62	99.13%	A
20	Gallimore Elementary School	Conventional	Plymouth-Canton	Suburb	24	121.50	99.09%	A
21	Ridge Park Charter Academy	Charter	Grand Rapids	City	48	121.31	99.04%	A
22	Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy	Selective	Saginaw	City	24	121.20	98.99%	A
23	Chrysler Elementary School	Conventional	Detroit	City	24	121.19	98.95%	A
24	Howe Trainable Center and Montessori	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	24	120.93	98.90%	A
25	Akron-Fairgrove Elem. School	Conventional	Akron-Fairgrove	Rural	24	120.70	98.86%	A
26	Northport Public School	Conventional	Northport	Rural	29	120.65	98.81%	A
27	DeTour Arts and Technology Academy	Charter	DeTour	Rural	10	120.57	98.77%	A
28	Riverview Elementary School	Conventional	Big Rapids	Town	12	120.18	98.72%	A
29	Highview Elementary School	Conventional	Crestwood	Suburb	12	120.16	98.67%	A
30	Handley School	Selective	Saginaw	City	24	119.32	98.63%	A
31	Rose City School	Conventional	West Branch-Rose City	Rural	20	119.13	98.58%	A
32	Cavanaugh School	Conventional	Lansing	City	6	119.01	98.54%	A
33	Webster Elementary School	Conventional	Livonia	City	30	118.95	98.49%	A
34	Fairview School	Conventional	Fairview	Rural	48	118.95	98.45%	A
35	Brown Elementary School	Conventional	Byron Center	Suburb	12	118.91	98.40%	A
36	Holland Heights	Conventional	Holland	City	24	118.79	98.35%	A
37	Maples Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	118.78	98.31%	A
38	Pellston Elementary School	Conventional	Pellston	Rural	24	118.42	98.26%	A
39	A.D. Johnston Jr/Sr High School	Conventional	Bessemer	Rural	18	118.23	98.22%	A
40	Center for Economicology	Selective	Grand Rapids	City	6	118.06	98.17%	A
41	E.B. Holman Elementary School	Conventional	Stanton Township	Rural	44	118.02	98.13%	A
42	Lowrey Middle School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	117.73	98.08%	A
43	Hanley International Academy	Charter	Hamtramck	Suburb	48	117.68	98.03%	A
44	Washington School	Conventional	Bessemer	Rural	30	117.63	97.99%	A
45	Oakman Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	117.42	97.94%	A
46	Au Gres-Sims Elementary School	Conventional	Au Gres-Sims	Rural	24	117.40	97.90%	A
47	Great Oaks Academy	Charter	Warren	City	48	117.14	97.85%	A
48	McDonald Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	117.13	97.81%	A
49	Engadine Schools	Conventional	Engadine	Rural	48	116.95	97.76%	A
50	Miller Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	116.78	97.71%	A
51	New Buffalo Elementary School	Conventional	New Buffalo	Rural	24	116.73	97.67%	A
52	Greenwood Elementary School	Conventional	Kalamazoo	City	6	116.50	97.62%	A
53	Sister Lakes Elementary School	Conventional	Dowagiac	Rural	24	116.49	97.58%	A
54	Lawrence Elementary School	Conventional	Lawrence	Rural	30	116.33	97.53%	A

Top 100 Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Table Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
55	Ashley Middle School	Conventional	Ashley	Rural	36	116.10	97.49%	A
56	Southwood Elementary	Conventional	Kentwood	Suburb	24	116.05	97.44%	A
57	Kinloch Elementary School	Conventional	Crestwood	Suburb	12	116.04	97.39%	A
58	Star International Academy	Charter	Dearborn	Suburb	36	115.90	97.35%	A
59	Lakeview Elementary School	Conventional	Lakeview (Montcalm)	Rural	6	115.90	97.30%	A
60	Onekama Consolidated Schools	Conventional	Onekama	Rural	48	115.80	97.26%	A
61	Lewiston Elementary School	Conventional	Johannesburg-Lewiston	Rural	24	115.75	97.21%	A
62	City Middle/High	Selective	Grand Rapids	City	18	115.73	97.17%	A
63	New Buffalo Middle School	Conventional	New Buffalo Schools	Rural	24	115.73	97.12%	A
64	Boyne Falls Public School	Conventional	Boyne Falls	Rural	42	115.47	97.07%	A
65	Excel Charter Academy	Charter	Grand Rapids	City	48	115.44	97.03%	A
66	T.R. Davis Elementary	Conventional	Dollar Bay-Tamarack City	Town	48	115.43	96.98%	A
67	Carsonville-Port Sanilac H.S.	Conventional	Carsonville-Port Sanilac	Rural	24	115.43	96.94%	A
68	Sheldon Woods Elementary School	Conventional	West Ottawa	Rural	24	115.35	96.89%	A
69	Chandler Woods Charter Academy	Charter	Belmont	Suburb	48	115.30	96.85%	A
70	Grandville Central Elementary School	Conventional	Grandville	Suburb	30	115.26	96.80%	A
71	Central Lake Public Schools	Conventional	Central Lake	Rural	48	115.17	96.76%	A
72	Morton Elementary School	Conventional	Marysville	Suburb	24	115.15	96.71%	A
73	Cross Creek Charter Academy	Charter	Byron Center	Suburb	48	115.05	96.66%	A
74	Dutton Elementary School	Conventional	Caledonia	Rural	12	115.04	96.62%	A
75	Max Paun School	Conventional	Lincoln Park	Suburb	24	114.98	96.57%	A
76	North Central Elementary School	Conventional	North Central	Rural	24	114.79	96.53%	A
77	Forest View Elementary School	Conventional	Cadillac	Rural	24	114.75	96.48%	A
78	Meadowlawn Elementary	Conventional	Kentwood	City	24	114.63	96.44%	A
79	Muskegon Montessori Academy for Env. Ch.	Charter	Muskegon	Suburb	30	114.52	96.39%	A
80	South Arbor Charter Academy	Charter	South Arbor	Rural	48	114.44	96.34%	A
81	Hiller Elementary School	Conventional	Lamphere	Suburb	24	114.42	96.30%	A
82	Holden Elementary School	Conventional	Warren	Suburb	24	114.40	96.25%	A
83	Windemere Park Charter Academy	Charter	Lansing	Suburb	48	114.31	96.21%	A
84	Wolverine Elementary School	Conventional	Wolverine	Rural	24	114.30	96.16%	A
85	Gros Cap School	Conventional	Moran Township	Rural	14	114.15	96.12%	A
86	McCollough Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	114.09	96.07%	A
87	Vanguard Charter Academy	Charter	Wyoming	Suburb	48	113.96	96.02%	A
88	Beach Elementary School	Conventional	Fruitport	Suburb	24	113.92	95.98%	A
89	Flat River Academy	Charter	Greenville	Rural	40	113.91	95.93%	A
90	Lake Linden-Hubbell Schools	Conventional	Lake Linden-Hubbell	Town	48	113.89	95.89%	A
91	Three Lakes Academy	Charter	Curtis	Rural	30	113.83	95.84%	A
92	Franklin Elementary School	Conventional	Cadillac	Town	24	113.78	95.80%	A
93	AGBU Alex-Marie Manoogian School	Charter	Southfield	City	48	113.77	95.75%	A
94	Eagle Crest Charter Academy	Charter	Holland	Suburb	48	113.74	95.70%	A
95	Sharp Park Academy	Conventional	Jackson	City	24	113.65	95.66%	A
96	Linden Charter Academy	Charter	Flint	Suburb	48	113.64	95.61%	A
97	Duvall Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	113.62	95.57%	A
98	St. Ignace Elementary/Middle School	Conventional	St. Ignace	Rural	48	113.61	95.52%	A
99	Frostick School	Conventional	Croswell-Lexington	Rural	12	113.56	95.48%	A
100	Blandford School	Selective	Grand Rapids	Suburb	6	113.48	95.43%	A

Geographical Comparisons

Top 10 Rural Schools

Thirty-nine rural schools, the most of any geographical classification, earned a score in the top 100, including six in the top 20. Nine of the top 10 rural schools in this analysis are conventional district schools, and one is a charter school. Rankin Elementary School's CAP Score places third from the top of all schools.

Top 10 Rural Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
3	Rankin Elementary School	Conventional	Carman-Ainsworth	Rural	24	132.12	99.86%	A
10	Bear Lake Elementary School	Conventional	Bear Lake	Rural	30	123.86	99.54%	A
14	Weidman Elementary School	Conventional	Chippewa Hills	Rural	12	122.61	99.36%	A
15	Marion Elementary School	Conventional	Marion	Rural	26	122.12	99.31%	A
17	Hale Area School	Conventional	Hale	Rural	48	121.78	99.22%	A
19	Kingston High School	Conventional	Kingston	Rural	18	121.62	99.13%	A
25	Akron-Fairgrove Elem. School	Conventional	Akron-Fairgrove	Rural	24	120.70	98.86%	A
26	Northport Public School	Conventional	Northport	Rural	29	120.65	98.81%	A
27	DeTour Arts and Technology Academy	Charter	DeTour	Rural	10	120.57	98.77%	A
31	Rose City School	Conventional	West Branch-Rose City	Rural	20	119.13	98.58%	A

Top 10 City Schools

Twenty-eight city schools landed in the top 100, and 10 of them ranked in the top 30. Most of the highest scoring city schools are charter schools or selective. When comparing the performance of the top 10 city schools, only three of them on this list are conventional schools. Two Detroit charter schools, Pembroke Academy and Frontier International Academy, performed well enough to be ranked second and fourth overall, respectively.

Top 10 City Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
2	Pembroke Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	46	138.40	99.91%	A
4	Frontier International Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	28	130.00	99.82%	A
6	Middle School Math. Science Tech.	Selective	Warren	City	18	128.32	99.73%	A
9	Iris Becker Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	125.24	99.59%	A
12	Lowrey Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	24	122.70	99.45%	A
16	Vanderbilt Charter Academy	Charter	Holland	City	48	122.09	99.27%	A
21	Ridge Park Charter Academy	Charter	Grand Rapids	City	48	121.31	99.04%	A
22	Saginaw Arts and Sciences Academy	Selective	Saginaw	City	24	121.20	98.99%	A
23	Chrysler Elementary School	Conventional	Detroit	City	24	121.19	98.95%	A
30	Handley School	Selective	Saginaw	City	24	119.32	98.63%	A

Top 10 Suburban Schools

Three conventional schools from Dearborn City School District are in the top 10 among suburban schools. Dearborn STEM Middle School earned the top ranking overall, while two suburban charter schools fall next in line: Hamtramck Academy (fifth overall) and Noor International Academy (seventh overall). The remaining schools included in the top 10 for suburban school performance are all conventional schools, with the exception of one selective school — Avondale Gifted and Talented Education — in the Avondale School District.

Top 10 Suburban Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
1	Dearborn STEM Middle School	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	24	140.35	99.95%	A
5	Hamtramck Academy	Charter	Hamtramck	Suburb	48	128.89	99.77%	A
7	Noor International Academy	Charter	Sterling Heights	Suburb	28	128.23	99.68%	A
11	River Oaks Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	24	123.08	99.50%	A
13	Harwood Elementary School	Conventional	Warren	Suburb	24	122.69	99.41%	A
18	Avondale Gifted and Talented	Selective	Avondale	Suburb	48	121.64	99.18%	A
20	Gallimore Elementary School	Conventional	Plymouth-Canton	Suburb	24	121.50	99.09%	A
24	Howe Trainable Center and Montessori	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	24	120.93	98.90%	A
29	Highview Elementary School	Conventional	Crestwood	Suburb	12	120.16	98.67%	A
35	Brown Elementary School	Conventional	Byron Center	Suburb	12	118.91	98.40%	A

Top 10 Town Schools

When comparing the performance of town schools, only five of them land in the top 100 of all schools in the analysis. Cedar Crest Elementary, part of Greenville Public Schools, performed best among the town schools in the analysis and ranks 8th overall. Ninety-six percent of town schools are in conventional districts, and these filled the top 10 slots when analyzing school performance in towns across the state.

Top 10 Town Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
8	Cedar Crest Elementary School	Conventional	Greenville	Town	24	127.53	99.63%	A
28	Riverview Elementary School	Conventional	Big Rapids	Town	12	120.18	98.72%	A
66	T.R. Davis Elementary	Conventional	Dollar Bay-Tamarack City	Town	48	115.43	96.98%	A
90	Lake Linden-Hubbell Schools	Conventional	Lake Linden-Hubbell	Town	48	113.89	95.89%	A
92	Franklin Elementary School	Conventional	Cadillac	Town	24	113.78	95.80%	A
105	Justus Gage Elementary School	Conventional	Dowagiac	Town	24	113.23	95.20%	A
108	Walnut Hills Elementary School	Conventional	Greenville	Town	24	113.04	95.06%	A
131	Emerson School	Conventional	Ionia	Town	24	112.11	94.01%	A
132	Cheboygan Middle School	Conventional	Cheboygan	Town	12	112.07	93.97%	A
141	Baldwin Heights School	Conventional	Greenville	Town	24	111.69	93.56%	A

The Bottom 100 Public Elementary and Middle Schools

The lowest ranking on the 2025 CAP Report Card belongs to Muskegon Heights Academy. The other of the two charter schools in the Muskegon Heights Public School Academy System, Dr. Martin Luther King Academy, also finished in the bottom 100. This former conventional school district was converted to the charter school system after being appointed an emergency manager in 2012. Compared to the previous two CAP Reports, the total number of charter schools in the bottom 100 decreased from 23 to 20.

The next two lowest-rated entries are from Flint. Out of the nine conventional Flint schools, five landed on this bottom 100 list. Consistent with the 2019 CAP Report, all three of the eligible district schools from the Benton Harbor school district ranked in the bottom 100 in the current report. Two of them placed in the bottom 10. Both of these districts have faced scrutiny and sought relief from the state for significant financial debt and academic struggles.

The bottom 100 included 24 district-run schools in Detroit, representing one-third of eligible schools operated by the Detroit Public Schools Community District. Conventional Detroit schools received six of the 20 lowest CAP Scores, compared to nine in the 2017 edition. While these numbers suggest slight improvement from the previous two CAP Report cards, the overall findings indicate continuing poor performance even after adjusting for student poverty.

Similar to the 2019 CAP Report, 97 of the lowest scores come from either urban or suburban schools. Those located in cities comprise 61 in this edition, compared to 65 in 2019 and 74 in 2017. Only three rural schools rated in the bottom 100. None of the town schools appeared on this list.

Bottom 100 Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Table Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
1	Muskegon Heights Academy	Charter	Muskegon Heights	Suburb	18	78.16	0.00%	F
2	Brownell STEM Academy	Conventional	Flint	City	24	78.68	0.05%	F
3	Holmes STEM Middle School Academy	Conventional	Flint	City	22	78.97	0.09%	F
4	Ypsilanti Community Middle School	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	24	79.00	0.14%	F
5	Ronald Brown Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	79.19	0.18%	F
6	Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary	Conventional	Benton Harbor	Suburb	6	79.80	0.23%	F
7	Fair Plain Middle School	Conventional	Benton Harbor	Suburb	24	79.99	0.27%	F
8	Mason Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	80.82	0.32%	F
9	Plymouth Educational Center	Charter	Plymouth	City	48	80.96	0.37%	F
10	Holmes Elementary	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	24	81.01	0.41%	F
11	Earhart Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	81.36	0.46%	F
12	Brewer Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	81.36	0.50%	F
13	Northwestern Middle School	Conventional	Battle Creek	City	24	81.57	0.55%	F
14	American International Acad. Upper Elem.	Charter	Inkster	Suburb	28	81.62	0.59%	F
15	Henderson Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	81.62	0.64%	F
16	Mackenzie Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	46	81.69	0.69%	F
17	Jessie Rouse School	Conventional	Saginaw	City	30	81.74	0.73%	F
18	Eastpointe Middle School	Conventional	Eastpointe	Suburb	24	82.04	0.78%	F
19	Detroit Community Schools - Elementary	Charter	Detroit	City	48	82.15	0.82%	F
20	Lincoln International Studies School	Conventional	Kalamazoo	City	24	82.24	0.87%	F
21	Arts and Technology Academy of Pontiac	Charter	Pontiac	City	48	82.44	0.91%	F
22	Dr. Martin Luther King Academy	Charter	Muskegon Heights	Suburb	30	82.65	0.96%	F
23	Barber Elementary School	Charter	Highland Park	Suburb	44	82.68	1.01%	F

Bottom 100 Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Table Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
24	Verona Elementary School	Conventional	Battle Creek	City	24	82.86	1.05%	F
25	Estabrook Elementary	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	24	83.08	1.10%	F
26	Greater Heights Academy	Charter	Flint	Suburb	30	83.39	1.14%	F
27	Tyrone Elementary School	Conventional	Harper Woods	Suburb	24	83.59	1.19%	F
28	Gardner International School	Conventional	Lansing	City	48	83.71	1.23%	F
29	Roosevelt/McGrath Elem. School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	24	83.79	1.28%	F
30	Bunche Preparatory Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	83.90	1.33%	F
31	J. E. Clark Preparatory Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	84.20	1.37%	F
32	Hudson Middle School	Conventional	Hudson	Rural	18	84.39	1.42%	F
33	CB Sabbath 6-8 Preparatory Academy	Conventional	River Rouge	Suburb	24	84.44	1.46%	F
34	South Lake Middle School	Conventional	South Lake	Suburb	24	84.51	1.51%	F
35	Pontiac Middle School	Conventional	Pontiac	City	24	84.53	1.55%	F
36	Neithercut Elementary School	Conventional	Flint	City	30	84.55	1.60%	F
37	Hamilton Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	84.57	1.65%	F
38	Keys Grace Academy	Charter	Madison Heights	Suburb	48	84.57	1.69%	F
39	Burton Middle School	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	24	84.58	1.74%	F
40	Dixon Elementary School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	84.58	1.78%	F
41	Eagle's Nest Academy	Charter	Flint	City	30	84.85	1.83%	F
42	American International Acad. HS/MS	Charter	Inkster	Suburb	20	84.94	1.87%	F
43	Fair Plain East Elementary	Conventional	Benton Harbor	Suburb	18	85.03	1.92%	F
44	Erickson Elementary	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	24	85.08	1.97%	F
45	Adams Middle School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	24	85.09	2.01%	F
46	Benton Harbor Charter School Academy	Charter	Benton Harbor	Suburb	48	85.09	2.06%	F
47	Brenda Scott Academy for Theatre Arts	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	85.24	2.10%	F
48	Campus Elementary	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	24	85.28	2.15%	F
49	Arborwood Elementary School	Conventional	Monroe	City	30	85.28	2.19%	F
50	Renaissance Virtual School	Conventional	Clarkston	Suburb	36	85.31	2.24%	F
51	David Hicks School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	24	85.36	2.29%	F
52	Marion Law Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	85.45	2.33%	F
53	Martin Luther King Leadership Academy	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	48	85.48	2.38%	F
54	Albert Schweitzer Elementary School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	24	85.65	2.42%	F
55	Einstein Elementary School	Conventional	Oak Park	Suburb	24	85.77	2.47%	F
56	J.W. Sexton High School	Conventional	Lansing	City	16	85.86	2.51%	F
57	Custer Elementary School	Conventional	Monroe	Suburb	30	85.88	2.56%	F
58	Carver STEM Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	86.07	2.61%	F
59	Doyle/Ryder School	Conventional	Flint	City	30	86.09	2.65%	F
60	Key Elementary School	Conventional	Oak Park	Suburb	24	86.12	2.70%	F
61	Durfee Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	86.14	2.74%	F
62	Comstock Elementary School	Conventional	Comstock	Rural	24	86.15	2.79%	F
63	Barack Obama Leadership Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	46	86.16	2.83%	F
64	Arthur Eddy Academy	Conventional	Saginaw	City	30	86.21	2.88%	F
65	YPSI Connected Community School	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	36	86.37	2.93%	F
66	Academy of the Americas at Logan	Selective	Detroit	City	6	86.41	2.97%	F
67	Glenn W. Levey Middle School	Conventional	Southfield	City	24	86.46	3.02%	F
68	Alger Middle School	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	24	86.50	3.06%	F
69	Redford Service Learning Academy Campus	Charter	Detroit	Suburb	48	86.52	3.11%	F
70	Gompers Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	86.52	3.15%	F
71	International Academy of Saginaw	Charter	Saginaw	Suburb	16	86.58	3.20%	F
72	Edward "Duke" Ellington at Beckham	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	86.64	3.24%	F
73	Thompson K-8 International Academy	Conventional	Southfield	City	48	86.67	3.29%	F
74	Beecher High School	Conventional	Beecher	Suburb	18	86.70	3.34%	F
75	East Leonard Elementary	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	24	86.78	3.38%	F
76	Detroit Service Learning Academy Campus	Charter	Detroit	City	48	86.84	3.43%	F
77	Faxon Academy	Charter	Southfield	City	28	86.92	3.47%	F

Bottom 100 Public Elementary and Middle Schools								
Table Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	# of Scores	Overall CAP Values		
						Score	Percent Rank	Grade
78	Washington Writers' Academy	Conventional	Kalamazoo	City	24	86.92	3.52%	F
79	Nolan Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	86.98	3.56%	F
80	Battle Creek STEM Innovation Center	Conventional	Battle Creek	City	24	87.02	3.61%	F
81	Burns Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	87.03	3.66%	F
82	Great Lakes Academy	Charter	Pontiac	City	48	87.03	3.70%	F
83	Benjamin Franklin Middle School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	24	87.03	3.75%	F
84	Oak Park Preparatory Academy	Conventional	Oak Park	Suburb	24	87.04	3.79%	F
85	Priest Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	87.07	3.84%	F
86	Hope Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	48	87.07	3.88%	F
87	Emerson Elementary-Middle School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	87.11	3.93%	F
88	Michigan Collegiate Middle/High School	Charter	Warren	City	24	87.19	3.98%	F
89	Sampson-Webber Leadership Academy	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	87.20	4.02%	F
90	Michigamme Elementary School	Conventional	Port Huron	Suburb	24	87.22	4.07%	F
91	Kent Hills Elementary	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	24	87.26	4.11%	F
92	Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary-MS	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	87.30	4.16%	F
93	Wildwood Elementary School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	24	87.52	4.20%	F
94	Dickinson Academy	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	46	87.54	4.25%	F
95	Pierce School	Conventional	Flint	City	28	87.59	4.30%	F
96	Muskegon Middle School	Conventional	Muskegon	City	24	87.62	4.34%	F
97	Thurgood Marshall Elementary School	Conventional	Detroit	City	48	87.64	4.39%	F
98	Colon Elementary School	Conventional	Colon	Rural	24	87.65	4.43%	F
99	Spring Valley Center for Exploration	Conventional	Kalamazoo	City	24	87.65	4.48%	F
100	Eugene B. Elliott Elem. School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	24	87.66	4.52%	F

Pre-COVID vs. Post-COVID

Schools across the state struggled to promote learning gains during the COVID-19 emergency, when many shuttered their buildings to in-person learning. Most students experienced dramatic learning losses during that time, as evidenced by the decline in math and reading scores on state and national assessments since 2019. The 2019 CAP Report Card, which incorporates scores from 2016 to 2019, provides a snapshot of school performance just prior to the pandemic. This 2025 CAP Report provides an analysis of school performance since 2022, when standardized testing resumed in public schools. Comparing the 2025 CAP scores to the 2019 report identifies schools that demonstrated strong performance despite the closures, and those that lost the most ground during that time.

The following tables include the 100 public elementary and middle schools with CAP scores that improved or declined the most since 2019.

Schools with the Largest Post-COVID Gains

Gros Cap School, a conventional K-8 school in the Moran Township School District, showed the most growth from pre- to post-pandemic. A small, rural school located in St. Ignace, its CAP Score improved by nearly 23 points — earning it an A in 2025 after receiving an F in 2019. Seven other schools — five conventional and two charter schools — also improved by twenty points or more. The charter schools in this group jumped at least three letter grades after receiving an F on the 2019 CAP Report Card. LifeTech Academy in Lansing earned a B and Flat River Academy in Greenville earned an A in the current CAP Report.

A total of 81 conventional and 19 charter schools placed on the 100 most-improved list. The growth in their CAP scores from pre- to post-pandemic ranged from just over nine points to nearly 23 points. Schools in rural areas represented the majority of these, followed by those located in suburbs and cities. Town locales were home to only five schools in this group; of these, Cedar Crest Elementary of Greenville Public Schools showed the most growth, improving its CAP score by 21 points.

Dearborn City School District landed four of its schools on this list. Among them, Howe Trainable Center and Montessori School improved the most, increasing its score by more than 22 points — from a C in 2019 to an A in 2024. Nowlin Elementary School trailed just a few points behind, improving its score by nearly 17 points in the current CAP Report.

Three schools in the Detroit Public Schools Community District also raised their scores enough to be included. Chrysler Elementary boosted its score by nearly 20 points — from a C to an A — after the pandemic.

100 Most Improved Public Elementary and Middle Schools							
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	CAP Scores		
					2025	2019	Change
85	Gros Cap School	Conventional	Moran Township	Rural	114.15	91.40	22.75
24	Howe Trainable Center and Montessori	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	120.93	98.49	22.44
418	Mid Peninsula School	Conventional	Mid Peninsula	Rural	105.66	83.28	22.37
89	Flat River Academy	Charter	Greenville	Rural	113.91	91.96	21.95
8	Cedar Crest Elementary School	Conventional	Greenville	Town	127.53	106.40	21.12
184	Eureka School	Conventional	St. Johns	Rural	110.31	89.42	20.89
26	Northport Public School	Conventional	Northport	Rural	120.65	100.00	20.65
412	LifeTech Academy	Charter	Lansing	Suburb	105.73	85.19	20.53
55	Ashley Middle School	Conventional	Ashley	Rural	116.10	96.34	19.76
23	Chrysler Elementary School	Conventional	Detroit	City	121.19	101.50	19.69
39	A.D. Johnston Jr/Sr High School	Conventional	Bessemer	Rural	118.23	98.62	19.61
10	Bear Lake Elementary School	Conventional	Bear Lake	Rural	123.86	104.91	18.95
38	Pellston Elementary School	Conventional	Pellston	Rural	118.42	99.50	18.92
255	Tekonsha Schools	Conventional	Tekonsha	Rural	108.31	89.42	18.89
227	David Ellis Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	109.10	90.97	18.13
250	Baraga School	Conventional	Baraga	Rural	108.48	90.54	17.94
66	Dollar Bay-Tamarack City Area K-12 School	Conventional	Dollar Bay-Tamarack City	Town	115.43	97.55	17.88
686	Battle Creek Montessori Academy	Charter	Battle Creek	Suburb	102.81	85.55	17.26
106	Ontonagon Area School	Conventional	Ontonagon	Rural	113.19	96.16	17.03
7	Noor International Academy	Charter	Sterling Heights	Suburb	128.23	111.40	16.83
71	Central Lake Public Schools	Conventional	Central Lake	Rural	115.17	98.35	16.82
102	Nowlin Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	113.31	96.55	16.76
171	North Huron School	Conventional	North Huron	Rural	110.95	94.40	16.55
126	Marion High School	Conventional	Marion	Rural	112.43	95.92	16.50
49	Engadine Schools	Conventional	Engadine	Rural	116.95	100.60	16.34
196	Bear Lake High School	Conventional	Bear Lake	Rural	110.00	93.88	16.11
245	Dort Elementary School	Conventional	Roseville	Suburb	108.63	92.52	16.11
60	Onekama Consolidated Schools	Conventional	Onekama	Rural	115.80	99.85	15.95
97	Duvall Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	113.62	98.16	15.46
217	Tri-Township School	Conventional	Rapid River	Rural	109.49	94.60	14.89
67	Carsonville-Port Sanilac H.S.	Conventional	Carsonville-Port Sanilac	Rural	115.43	100.92	14.50
152	Atlanta Community Schools	Conventional	Atlanta	Rural	111.39	97.04	14.35
159	Carney-Nadeau Public School	Conventional	Carney-Nadeau	Rural	111.23	96.95	14.28
193	Hinks Elementary	Conventional	Alpena	Rural	110.09	95.81	14.27
238	Joy Preparatory Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	108.73	94.59	14.14
522	Waterford Montessori Academy	Charter	Waterford	Suburb	104.47	90.44	14.03

100 Most Improved Public Elementary and Middle Schools							
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	CAP Scores		
					2025	2019	Change
64	Boyne Falls Public School	Conventional	Boyne Falls	Rural	115.47	101.50	13.97
107	Parma Elementary School	Conventional	Western	Rural	113.15	99.87	13.28
1025	Kensington Woods Schools	Charter	Lakeland	Suburb	100.32	87.04	13.27
517	Pittsford Area High School	Conventional	Pittsford	Rural	104.51	91.41	13.10
330	Peck Jr./Sr. High School	Conventional	Peck	Rural	106.85	93.78	13.07
99	Frostick School	Conventional	Croswell-Lexington	Rural	113.56	100.62	12.94
313	Rapid City Elementary School	Conventional	Kalkaska	Rural	107.22	94.40	12.82
103	Mecosta Elementary School	Conventional	Chippewa Hills	Rural	113.31	100.52	12.79
738	Crescent Academy Middle School	Charter	Southfield	City	102.44	89.67	12.77
511	Williams Elementary School	Conventional	Jonesville	Rural	104.54	91.92	12.62
74	Dutton Elementary School	Conventional	Caledonia	Rural	115.04	102.56	12.48
297	Marshall Academy	Charter	Marshall	Rural	107.40	95.11	12.30
943	United Oaks Elementary School	Conventional	Hazel Park	Suburb	100.85	88.59	12.26
263	Edmonson Elementary School	Conventional	Lamphere	Suburb	108.14	95.93	12.21
19	Kingston High School	Conventional	Kingston	Rural	121.62	109.46	12.16
143	Siersma Elementary School	Conventional	Warren	City	111.60	99.48	12.12
213	South Range Elementary School	Conventional	Adams Township	Rural	109.59	97.53	12.06
98	St. Ignace Elementary/Middle School	Conventional	St. Ignace	Rural	113.61	101.70	11.91
218	Dibble Elementary School	Conventional	Jackson	Rural	109.49	97.63	11.86
16	Vanderbilt Charter Academy	Charter	Holland	City	122.09	110.28	11.80
612	Randolph Elementary School	Conventional	Livonia	City	103.57	91.93	11.63
387	Will L. Lee School	Conventional	Richmond	Town	106.10	94.47	11.62
116	Brimley Area School	Conventional	Brimley	Rural	112.69	101.22	11.48
209	Hale Creek Elementary School	Conventional	Romulus	Suburb	109.69	98.22	11.47
53	Sister Lakes Elementary School	Conventional	Dowagiac	Rural	116.49	105.07	11.43
331	Mayville Middle & High School	Conventional	Mayville	Rural	106.85	95.62	11.23
341	Polk Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn Heights	Suburb	106.75	95.55	11.20
164	New Branches Charter Academy	Charter	Grand Rapids	City	111.11	99.94	11.17
1370	Bagley Elem. School of Journ. and Tech.	Conventional	Detroit	City	97.88	86.80	11.08
69	Chandler Woods Charter Academy	Charter	Belmont	Suburb	115.30	104.34	10.96
165	Norway Elementary School	Conventional	Norway-Vulcan	Rural	111.08	100.15	10.93
51	New Buffalo Elementary School	Conventional	New Buffalo	Rural	116.73	105.82	10.90
1268	Simonds Elementary School	Conventional	Lamphere	Suburb	98.52	87.61	10.90
52	Greenwood Elementary School	Conventional	Kalamazoo	City	116.50	105.63	10.86
17	Hale Area School	Conventional	Hale	Rural	121.78	110.92	10.86
225	Barhitte Elementary School	Conventional	Bentley	Suburb	109.26	98.41	10.85
632	Union City Elementary School	Conventional	Union City	Rural	103.35	92.61	10.74
1015	Woodland School	Charter	Woodland School	Rural	100.40	89.80	10.61
298	Tomek-Eastern Elem. School	Conventional	Fenton	Suburb	107.40	96.95	10.44
362	Sandyview Elementary School	Conventional	Hamilton	Rural	106.48	96.06	10.42
153	Carsonville-Port Sanilac Elementary School	Conventional	Carsonville-Port Sanilac	Rural	111.35	100.97	10.38
257	Caseville School K-12	Conventional	Caseville	Rural	108.27	97.90	10.37
113	Hoover School	Conventional	Lincoln Park	Suburb	112.88	102.56	10.31
44	Washington School	Conventional	Bessemer	Rural	117.63	107.38	10.24
11	River Oaks Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	Suburb	123.08	112.91	10.17
110	Paragon Charter Academy	Charter	Paragon Charter Academy	Suburb	113.01	102.92	10.09
730	Peck Community Elem. School	Conventional	Peck	Rural	102.51	92.42	10.09
90	Lake Linden-Hubbell Schools	Conventional	Lake Linden-Hubbell	Town	113.89	103.80	10.08
201	Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center	Charter	Grand Rapids	City	109.86	99.83	10.03
181	Lake City Elementary School	Conventional	Lake City	Rural	110.39	100.37	10.02
204	Alanson Public School	Conventional	Alanson	Rural	109.75	99.73	10.02
41	E.B. Holman Elementary School	Conventional	Stanton Township	Rural	118.02	108.24	9.79
115	Bay City Academy - Farragut Campus	Charter	Bay City	City	112.79	103.02	9.77
302	Jeffers High School	Conventional	Adams Township	Rural	107.35	97.58	9.77
1830	Blackwell Institute	Conventional	Detroit	City	93.66	83.90	9.76

100 Most Improved Public Elementary and Middle Schools							
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	CAP Scores		
					2025	2019	Change
832	Charles C. McGlennen School	Conventional	Clintondale	Suburb	101.64	91.90	9.74
36	Holland Heights	Conventional	Holland	City	118.79	109.06	9.74
536	Carson City Elementary School	Conventional	Carson City-Crystal	Rural	104.30	94.58	9.72
605	Kaiser Elementary School	Conventional	Roseville	Suburb	103.60	93.88	9.71
1676	Eaton Academy	Charter	Eaton Academy	Suburb	95.38	85.79	9.60
28	Riverview Elementary School	Conventional	Big Rapids	Town	120.18	110.65	9.53
614	Pinewood Elementary School	Conventional	Warren Woods	City	103.53	94.01	9.52
1282	Innocademy Allegan Campus	Charter	Allegan	Rural	98.42	88.96	9.46
127	Keppen School	Conventional	Lincoln Park	Suburb	112.29	102.85	9.44

Schools with the Largest Post-COVID Decline

Of the schools included in the 2019 and current analyses, New Paradigm College Prep, a charter school in Detroit, lost the most ground from pre- to post-pandemic. The school's CAP score fell nearly 26 points during this period, dropping to a C. New Paradigm earned an A on the 2019 CAP Report Card.

The CAP scores of four other schools — three conventional and one charter — dropped more than 20 points, too. The conventional school that lost the most ground is Stocking Elementary in Grand Rapids. Its score fell over 23 points, dropping from an A to a D.

A total of 78 conventional and 22 charter schools make up the 100 schools that fared the worst. Some districts have multiple schools on this list. Ypsilanti Community Schools has five, more than any other district. One of these is Holmes Elementary, which earned an F on the current report card after its CAP Score dropped by more than 18 points. Grand Rapids is just ahead of Ypsilanti, with four of its schools included.

City schools make up the bulk of those that lost the most ground during this period. Schools located in the suburbs are represented at almost the same rate as those in cities, while rural and town locales are home to only a handful of schools on this list. Of the 11 rural schools, Leonard Elementary of Oxford Community Schools declined the most. In Charlotte, Washington Elementary's CAP Score dropped by 18 points — more than the other four town schools that made the list.

100 Largest Declines Among Public Elementary and Middle Schools							
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	CAP Scores		
					2025	2019	Change
1359	New Paradigm College Prep	Charter	Detroit	City	97.96	123.52	-25.56
1637	Stocking Elementary	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	95.73	118.85	-23.12
1650	Hope of Detroit Academy - Elementary	Charter	Detroit	City	95.63	117.31	-21.68
1312	Miller Elementary School	Conventional	Plymouth-Canton	Suburb	98.24	119.48	-21.24
1731	Washington Elementary School	Conventional	Romeo	Suburb	94.90	115.32	-20.42
1385	Cesar Chavez Academy Intermediate	Charter	Detroit	City	97.81	117.79	-19.99
2064	Mid-Michigan Leadership Academy	Charter	Lansing	City	88.61	108.32	-19.71
2170	Detroit Community Schools - Elementary	Charter	Detroit	City	82.15	101.78	-19.63
2071	Global Heights Academy	Charter	Dearborn Heights	Suburb	88.38	107.93	-19.55
1146	The Dearborn Academy	Charter	Dearborn	City	99.46	118.55	-19.09
2143	Benton Harbor Charter School Academy	Charter	Benton Harbor	Suburb	85.09	103.80	-18.71
2179	Holmes Elementary	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	81.01	99.48	-18.47
1453	Kenwood Elementary School	Conventional	Clawson	Suburb	97.09	115.46	-18.37
1437	Washington Elementary School	Conventional	Charlotte	Town	97.19	115.32	-18.13
736	Bridge Academy West	Charter	Bridge Academy	City	102.45	120.15	-17.70
731	Oakland International Academy - Middle	Charter	Detroit	City	102.51	119.85	-17.34
2032	White Pigeon Jr/Sr High School	Conventional	White Pigeon	Town	89.39	106.37	-16.97
626	Detroit Edison Public School Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	103.41	120.37	-16.96
2011	Forrest G. Averill School	Conventional	Lansing	City	90.04	106.88	-16.85
1883	Riverside Middle School	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	92.80	109.65	-16.85
2094	Pierce School	Conventional	Flint	City	87.59	104.42	-16.83
1463	Baldwin Elementary School	Conventional	Rochester	Suburb	97.02	113.75	-16.73
1948	Leonard Elementary School	Conventional	Oxford	Rural	91.69	107.76	-16.07
2008	Central Elementary School	Conventional	White Pigeon	Town	90.28	105.83	-15.55
1225	Glencairn School	Conventional	East Lansing	City	98.92	114.37	-15.45
600	Northridge Academy	Charter	Flint	Rural	103.60	118.75	-15.14
1424	Ashley Elementary School	Conventional	Anchor Bay	Suburb	97.34	112.36	-15.02
1016	Washington Elementary School	Conventional	Bay City	City	100.40	115.32	-14.92
1010	Washington Elementary School	Conventional	Wyandotte	Suburb	100.43	115.32	-14.89
2000	Lincoln Elementary School	Conventional	Hudson	Rural	90.46	105.33	-14.87
1712	Kosciuszko School	Conventional	Hamtramck	Suburb	95.10	109.92	-14.82
1189	Baldwin Elementary School	Conventional	Baldwin	Rural	99.07	113.75	-14.68
2169	Lincoln International Studies School	Conventional	Kalamazoo	City	82.24	96.79	-14.55
1695	East Middle School	Conventional	Farmington	City	95.27	109.81	-14.54
1779	Harms Elementary School	Conventional	Detroit	City	94.35	108.85	-14.50
1643	Lakewood Elementary School	Conventional	Huron Valley	Suburb	95.70	110.13	-14.43
495	Martin Luther King, Jr. Ed. Center Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	104.67	119.02	-14.35
1425	Washtenaw International Middle Academy	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	97.33	111.67	-14.34
1981	Central Middle School	Conventional	Port Huron	Suburb	90.96	105.17	-14.21
1864	Roosevelt Elementary School	Conventional	Port Huron	Suburb	93.13	106.88	-13.74
1958	Oakview Elementary School	Conventional	Muskegon	City	91.39	105.12	-13.73
1959	Hillside Middle School	Conventional	Kalamazoo	Suburb	91.39	105.05	-13.66
1660	Robert D. Brandon Elem. School	Conventional	Martin	Rural	95.57	108.99	-13.42
1414	Onaway Elementary School	Conventional	Onaway	Rural	97.42	110.84	-13.41
1510	Lakewood Elementary School	Conventional	Lakewood	Rural	96.78	110.13	-13.35
1893	Central Elementary School	Conventional	Reeths-Puffer	Suburb	92.66	105.83	-13.17
1503	Jefferson Elementary School	Conventional	Wyandotte	Suburb	96.82	109.88	-13.06
2007	Freeman School	Conventional	Flint	City	90.29	103.32	-13.03
1927	Parchment Middle School	Conventional	Parchment	Suburb	92.04	105.02	-12.98
1919	Dove Academy of Detroit	Charter	Detroit	City	92.25	105.21	-12.96
1732	Houghton Elementary School	Conventional	Waterford	Suburb	94.90	107.80	-12.90
1975	Clintondale Middle School	Conventional	Clintondale	Suburb	91.12	103.87	-12.75
699	Riverside Academy	Charter	Dearborn	City	102.72	115.40	-12.68
1901	Ottawa Elementary School	Conventional	Chippewa Valley	Suburb	92.52	105.01	-12.49
1800	Elmwood Elementary School	Conventional	South Lake	Suburb	94.05	106.51	-12.45

100 Largest Declines Among Public Elementary and Middle Schools							
Overall Rank	School Name	School Type	District or Municipality	Locale	CAP Scores		
					2025	2019	Change
2155	South Lake Middle School	Conventional	South Lake	Suburb	84.51	96.94	-12.42
1722	El Sol Elementary	Conventional	Kalamazoo	City	94.96	107.36	-12.39
770	Covert Middle School	Conventional	Covert	Rural	102.24	114.37	-12.14
2074	Marquette Elementary School	Conventional	Muskegon	City	88.25	100.36	-12.11
1656	North Elementary School	Conventional	Jefferson (Monroe)	Rural	95.59	107.66	-12.06
2163	Greater Heights Academy	Charter	Flint	Suburb	83.39	95.45	-12.06
1847	Harbor Beach Middle School	Conventional	Harbor Beach	Rural	93.42	105.36	-11.95
1939	Wilkinson Middle School	Conventional	Madison	Suburb	91.83	103.72	-11.89
2136	Martin Luther King Leadership Academy	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	85.48	97.26	-11.78
1977	Stevens T. Mason Elementary School	Conventional	Grosse Pointe	Suburb	91.07	102.76	-11.69
1270	Lakewood Elementary School	Conventional	Ann Arbor	City	98.50	110.13	-11.63
2061	Winans Elementary School	Conventional	Waverly	Suburb	88.65	100.25	-11.60
2172	Jessie Rouse School	Conventional	Saginaw	City	81.74	93.33	-11.59
2162	Tyrone Elementary School	Conventional	Harper Woods	Suburb	83.59	95.17	-11.59
1913	Oakridge Middle School	Conventional	Oakridge	Suburb	92.33	103.87	-11.54
1409	Merrill Park Elementary School	Conventional	Saginaw	City	97.49	109.02	-11.54
2085	International Academy of Flint (K-12)	Charter	Flint	City	87.79	99.26	-11.47
2185	Ypsilanti Community Middle School	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	79.00	90.44	-11.45
1734	Riverside Elementary School	Conventional	Constantine	Town	94.87	106.31	-11.44
811	Griffin Elementary School	Conventional	Grand Haven	Suburb	101.81	113.21	-11.40
755	Dickinson East Elementary School	Conventional	Hamtramck	Suburb	102.28	113.67	-11.39
1523	Douglas Elementary 3-4 Campus	Conventional	Garden City	Suburb	96.67	108.04	-11.37
1485	Hope of Detroit Academy - Middle/High	Charter	Detroit	City	96.92	108.29	-11.37
219	C.K. Schickler Elementary School	Conventional	Lapeer	Town	109.45	120.80	-11.35
1760	Central Elementary School	Conventional	Portage	City	94.50	105.83	-11.33
829	Oakland International Academy - Elementary	Charter	Detroit	City	101.67	113.00	-11.33
454	Geer Park Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	105.14	116.46	-11.32
733	Covert Elementary School	Conventional	Covert	Rural	102.47	113.78	-11.31
591	Woodworth Middle School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	103.67	114.97	-11.30
1999	Myers Elementary School	Conventional	Taylor	City	90.51	101.80	-11.29
2041	Brookside Elementary	Conventional	Grand Rapids	City	89.02	100.31	-11.29
2060	Holbrook School	Conventional	Hamtramck	Suburb	88.66	99.95	-11.28
37	Maples Elementary School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	118.78	129.93	-11.16
2120	Redford Service Learning Academy Campus	Charter	Detroit	Suburb	86.52	97.56	-11.04
1618	Clarke School	Conventional	St. Joseph	Suburb	95.94	106.98	-11.04
2021	Thomas A. Edison Elem. School	Conventional	Wayne-Westland	Suburb	89.80	100.81	-11.01
1747	Robert J. West Middle School	Conventional	Taylor	City	94.71	105.68	-10.96
1942	Bennett Elementary School	Conventional	Detroit	City	91.82	102.71	-10.89
2145	Erickson Elementary	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	85.08	95.80	-10.73
487	Washington Elementary School	Conventional	Marysville	Suburb	104.73	115.32	-10.60
1693	Jefferson Middle School	Conventional	Jefferson (Monroe)	Suburb	95.28	105.86	-10.58
382	Central Academy	Charter	Central Academy	City	106.14	116.64	-10.50
2164	Estabrook Elementary	Conventional	Ypsilanti	Suburb	83.08	93.57	-10.48
1284	Rutherford Winans Academy	Charter	Detroit	City	98.42	108.87	-10.45
347	Unis Middle School	Conventional	Dearborn	City	106.68	117.01	-10.32

Conclusion

The 2025 CAP Report Card provides an analysis of public elementary and middle school performance from 2022 to 2024 adjusted for student poverty. Consistent with previous reports, Dearborn is home to more top-performing schools than any other district. Compared to those in other areas, schools in rural regions stood out for having more than their share of representation in the top 100 and most-improved lists.

Also mirroring earlier editions of the CAP Report, charter schools spanned the performance spectrum. Relative to the proportion of charter schools included in this analysis, a greater percentage was represented in the top 100 than would be expected. But the same was true for charter schools among the lowest-performing 100 schools. A mix of conventional and charter schools, mostly in urban and suburban areas, made up the lowest-performing list.

The current report card strays from previous editions by including an analysis of school performance before and after the COVID-era school lockdowns. The availability of pre- and post-COVID data provided a unique opportunity to analyze the declines or gains at the individual school level following the state's response to the pandemic. The proportion of school types that improved the most and fared the worst was consistent in both categories; conventional schools represent about 80% and charter schools about 20% of schools that landed on these lists. After adjusting for poverty levels, schools in urban areas lost the most ground when comparing performance before and after the COVID-19 lockdowns.

Appendix A: Calculating CAP Scores and Letter Grades

Calculating CAP Scores

The purpose of CAP Scores is to gauge the performance of schools on standardized tests, given the economic status of their respective student bodies. The scores are generated from the M-STEP and PSAT scores from 2016 through 2019.

The first step in creating the scores is standardizing all the test results by subject, grade and year. Each test is given a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15. This creates an adjusted performance score, which is represented by the following formula:

$$\text{AdjustedPerformance} = 100 + 15 \left[\frac{(\text{TestAvg.} - \text{StateAvg.})}{\text{S. D. of StateAvg.}} \right]$$

The adjusted performance scores for each test are then compared to a predicted performance. The predicted performance is the score one would expect given the economic status of the students taking the tests. To get this predicted performance, the adjusted performance score for each year is modeled against the percentage of students being tested who qualify for a free lunch. Then the regression equation is used to generate the predicted performance. The regression equation is as follows:

$$\text{Adj}_{\text{Perf}_i} = \beta_0 + \beta_1(\text{FREE})_i + \mu_i$$

where $\text{Adj}_{\text{Perf}_i}$ is the average test score at school i ;

β_0 is a constant and is the predicted score of a school without any students eligible for a free lunch;

β_1 is the estimated impact of the student population's free lunch eligibility rate on a school's average score;

FREE_i is the number of students eligible for free lunch divided by the total student population;

and μ_i is the error term.

A unique equation is generated for each test, and that equation produces a predicted performance for each test, school and year. The ratio of the actual and predicted score, multiplied by 100, produces the final CAP Score for that test.

$$\text{CAP Score} = 100 \times \frac{\text{Adjusted Performance}}{\text{Predicted Performance}}$$

As an example, Lewis Maire Elementary School's fifth grade class in 2019 scored very well on their social studies test with an adjusted score of 133.6401. They were over two standard deviations above the mean for that test. Given that approximately 10% of their students qualified for free lunch, their predicted performance on that test comes to: $123.4792 - (.106383) \times (46.1592) = 118.5686$. Using the CAP Score equation above, the classes' CAP Score for that test comes to about 112.71, meaning that the class exceeded expectations.

All subject scores for each grade are averaged together, and then all these average grade-level scores are again averaged to produce the CAP Score for a given school in a given year. The overall CAP Score for a school is the average yearly score from 2016 to 2019. Averaging together these scores over multiple years provides a general picture of how well the school is performing and works to smooth out year-to-year variation.

Letter grades based on CAP Scores are issued on a curve. The top 10% of schools received an A, the next 20% a B, the middle 40% a C, the next 20% a D and the bottom 10% an F. This distribution is consistent with all prior editions of the Context and Performance Report Card.

Appendix B: Locale Codes

The locale codes used in this paper come directly from the National Center for Education Statistics. Locale codes represent how far away a particular school is from an urbanized area, and are based on a school's physical street address. * According to the NCES, the geographic information used to create locale codes is updated for about one-third of communities every year.

Definitions of each locale code category are below, taken directly from the NCES:

Locale Code	Definition
City: Large	Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population of 250,000 or more.
City: Midsize	Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000
City: Small	Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city with population less than 100,000.
Suburb: Large	Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population of 250,000 or more.
Suburb: Midsize	Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population less than 250,000 and greater than or equal to 100,000.
Suburb: Small	Territory outside a principal city and inside an urbanized area with population less than 100,000.
Town: Fringe	Territory inside an urban cluster that is less than or equal to 10 miles from an urbanized area.
Town: Distant	Territory inside an urban cluster that is more than 10 miles and less than or equal to 35 miles from an urbanized area.
Town: Remote	Territory inside an urban cluster that is more than 35 miles from an urbanized area.
Rural: Fringe	Census-defined rural territory that is less than or equal to 5 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is less than or equal to 2.5 miles from an urban cluster.
Rural: Distant	Census-defined rural territory that is more than 5 miles but less than or equal to 25 miles from an urbanized area, as well as rural territory that is more than 2.5 miles but less than or equal to 10 miles from an urban cluster
Rural: Remote	Census-defined rural territory that is more than 25 miles from an urbanized area and is also more than 10 miles from an urban cluster.

* "Identification of Rural Locales" (U.S. Department of Education), <http://perma.cc/DS9B-6D98>.

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