NEW BRANCHES CHARTER ACADEMY

Deeply Rooted, Branching Out

3662 Pointsettia Ave SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49508
P (616) 243-6221 | F (616) 243-0305

www.NewBranches.org

School Annual Education Report (AER)

2/2/26

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 New Branches Charter Academy. 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 Tanner Maten (tannermaten@choiceschools.com) for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website:mischooldata.org, 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: A Targeted Support and Improvement

Analysis of M-STEP, NWEA, and Acadience testing indicate opportunities for improvement in math,reading, science, and social studies. We will continue with our implementation of the tier 1 instruction using approved curriculum We will also use student data to identify students who would benefit from tier 2 instruction. The school will continue its professional development and implementation of all curriculum and interventions.

State law requires that we also report additional information.
1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

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New Branches Charter Academy is a free public charter school that offers open enrollment in grades K-8 for any student that resides in the state of Michigan. Our enrollment process is open to all students. There is no placement of students being the school is a one-building district. The school has a strong and intentional focus on environmental science. School wide initiatives and practices reflect good environmental practices including recycling, gardening, and outdoor activities utilizing our 12 acre campus.

2. The Michigan Continuous Improvement Process school improvement plan has been developed through analysis of data from standardized assessments including NWEA-MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) as well as M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), Acadience, PBIS SWIS, and locally collected data from classroom work and assessments. The overall goal of the Academy is to provide a positive learning environment, along with a rigorous academic and cultural program where our children learn to become healthy, responsible citizens, life- long learners, and world leaders. Progress toward this objective will be measured by the development of the students' skills. All students will demonstrate their development of these skills by:

• Mastering test objectives presented by the NWEA Testing (Grades 2-8); and by attaining the essential skills established and presented by the Academy at each grade level. In accordance with the Student Performance Goals identified in the Academy's Title I Schoolwide Program Plan, the Academy will work toward this overall objective by meeting the following goals:

• The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Reading will increase.

• The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Math will increase.

• The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Science will increase.

• The percentage of students that meet or exceed state standards in Social Studies will increase.

3. A Brief Description of Each Specialized School

Not Applicable

4. Identify How to Access a Copy of the Core Curriculum, a Description of Its Implementation, and an Explanation of the Variances from the State's Model

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A copy of the core curriculum can be reviewed in New Branches Charter Academy's main office. If you have any questions regarding the core curriculum, please contact the School Leader of New Branches Charter Academy for assistance. The Academy's K–8 curriculum focuses on developing the essential skills of all students. Teachers understand they are building the foundation that will help their students become responsible citizens who are able to communicate, are scientifically literate, and mathematically powerful. The belief that every learner is unique is the underlying foundation of the educational program. In order to meet each student's particular learning needs, teachers take into consideration the individual needs of each student and plan lessons that use a variety of instructional strategies and materials. The goal is to ensure that students develop the reading, writing, mathematical and communication skills that are the foundation of more advanced learning. The Academy provides a high quality education which enables students to achieve mastery in all curricular areas. The curriculum reflects teaching approaches and learning activities that improve students' abilities to inquire, analyze, and express themselves both critically and creatively. All students must meet essential skill requirements, designed by New Branches Charter Academy instructional staff, in order to be promoted to the next grade. New Branches Charter Academy provides a curriculum which is continuously updated and challenging for all students. Curriculum and instructional strategies are both age and individually appropriate so that developmentally sound practices are in place. The experiences and knowledge young children bring to school, combined with their natural curiosity, are the foundations for learning in the primary grades. The New Branches Charter Academy educational program is designed to prepare students for college and career by developing their character and proficiencies in Math, Reading, Science and Social Studies. The emphasis is on learning experiences which help children make connections between existing knowledge, new skills and information. All subject area outcomes are clearly defined, but learning is linked across these subject area boundaries. The New Branches Charter Academy core curriculum is decided upon by the Academy's administration and instructional staff, and aligned to the state's Common Core Curriculum. Teachers review and revise the curriculum annually. All students have the opportunity to learn the core curriculum. The core academic subjects of Reading, Math, Science, and Social Studies as well as special classes in Health, Physical Education, Eco-Art, and Environmental Education are key components of the educational program for all students. The basic educational program is combined with a safe and orderly learning environment and a continuous restorative practices approach as part of our PBIS program to form a well-rounded elementary and middle school education for students. In addition,

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compensatory services are provided by a support staff of full-time certified teachers for students that qualify for this form of assistance. The Academy features one full-time and one part-time Special Education teacher and contracts speech and language therapists, a social worker, and education psychologists to accommodate the individual needs of the students. A Summer School Program (for Grades K-8) to provide additional learning opportunities for students not meeting grade level expectations was offered in the summer for four weeks.

The Aggregate Student Achievement Results for Any Local Competency Tests or Nationally Normed Achievement Tests

2023-2024 NWEA Map Results

Reading			
Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT
2	167	182	185
3	182	188	195
4	191	196	197
5	200	207	210
6	207	213	208
7	206	210	223
8	221	224	220

Math			
Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT
2	173	197	193
3	184	199	194
4	192	200	196
5	196	209	215
6	205	220	215

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7	210	219	230
8	226	237	224

2024-2025 NWEA Map Results

Reading			
Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT
2	165	179	199
3	183	188	194
4	190	195	202
5	198	206	208
6	203	213	212
7	212	218	215
8	216	217	218

Math			
Grade	Fall RIT	Spring RIT	Target RIT
2	172	192	190
3	190	196	199
4	194	202	210
5	198	206	216
6	203	215	220
7	215	223	224
8	219	228	229

Identify the Number and Percent of Students Represented by Parents at Parent-Teacher Conferences

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The parent-teacher conference participation rate is the percentage of students who were represented by a parent(s)/guardian at the parent-teacher conference. Our goal is 100%. We meet a minimum of twice per year during a formalized conference window. Conferences are offered in different formats based on the parent's availability - in-person, virtual, or by phone.

	2023-2024	2024-2025
Conference participation	85% 305/359	94% 324/345

Thank you to all of the hard work the parents and students put in each day! New Branches Charter Academy strives for excellence through a data driven perspective. Each year we will continue to address the needs of the school.

Sincerely,

Tanner Maten
Principal