



LISTEN • LEARN • LEAD

State of the Student

Fall 2023 Update



Listen. Learn. Lead.

As stewards of our local schools, we are committed to fostering educational environments where each and every student can thrive and reach their fullest potential. Prioritizing students' success, we actively listen to their voices, ensuring their experiences are meaningful, relevant and that we prepare students for the future.

This update provides a look into our schools, the students we serve, their successes and our work together that's making a difference - for students and our communities.

Superintendents in Kent ISD

Dr. Kevin Macina

Byron Center Public Schools

Dirk Weeldreyer

Caledonia Community Schools

Scott Smith

Cedar Springs Public Schools

Dave Washburn

Comstock Park Public Schools

Dr. Heidi Kattula

East Grand Rapids Public Schools

Dr. Sara Magaña Shubel

Forest Hills Public Schools

Dr. Arnetta Thompson

Godfrey-Lee Public Schools

Bill Fetterhoff

Godwin Heights Public Schools

Dr. Leadriane Roby

Grand Rapids Public Schools

Roger Bearup

Grandville Public Schools

Jim Alston

Kelloggville Public Schools

Gerald Hopkins

Kenowa Hills Public Schools

Bill Crane

Kent City Community Schools

Ron Koehler

Kent ISD

Kevin Polston

Kentwood Public Schools

Nate Fowler

Lowell Area Schools

Dr. Christina Hinds

Northview Public Schools

Dr. Steve Matthews

Rockford Public Schools

Joel Stoner

Sparta Area Schools

Craig McCarthy

Thornapple Kellogg Public Schools

Craig Hoekstra

Wyoming Public Schools



Our Schools and Students



280
Schools



8,550
Educators

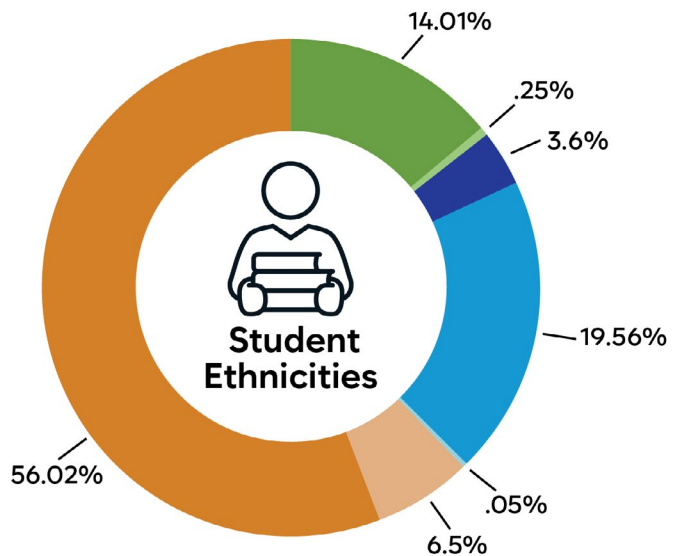


20 School Districts
plus many public school academies and non public schools



100,772
Total Students

- 50%** Economically Disadvantaged (50,485)
- 12%** English Learners (12,200)
- 12%** Students with Disabilities (12,145)



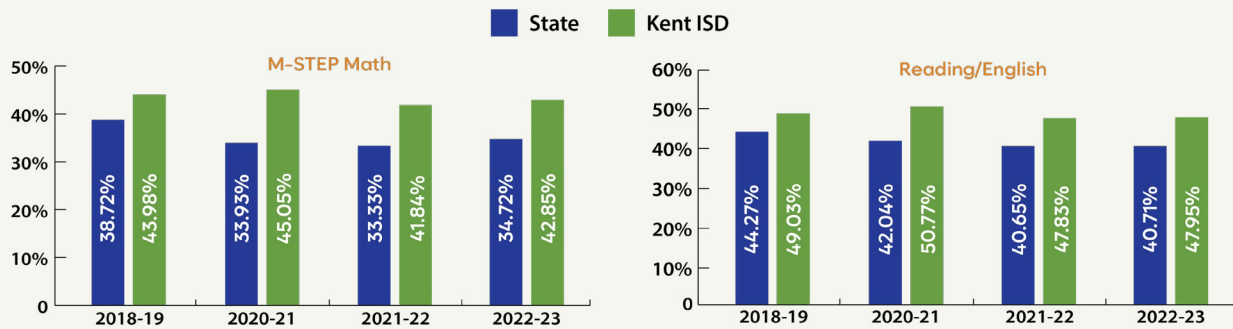
- African American/Black
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Hispanic/Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Two or More Races
- White

Student Achievement

M-STEP Proficiency

Students in grades 3-7 throughout Michigan complete the M-STEP each year (excluding 2019-2020). This assessment is meant to measure what students know based on Michigan's Academic Standards.

Students who meet or exceed academic content standards are rated as proficient or advanced.

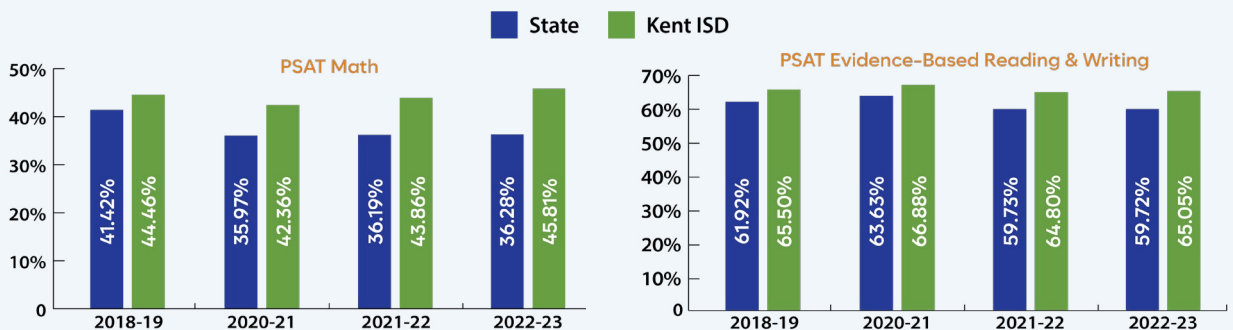


The latest MSTEP scores show students in Kent ISD continue to outperform their peers across the state. In both Math and English Language Arts, student scores are improving and are roughly 1% below pre-pandemic proficiency levels.

PSAT Proficiency

The PSAT is a preliminary SAT test taken by 8th graders across the state each year (excluding 2019-2020). This assessment is meant to measure students' level of proficiency in Math and Evidence-Based Reading and Writing.

Students who meet or exceed academic content standards are rated as proficient or advanced.



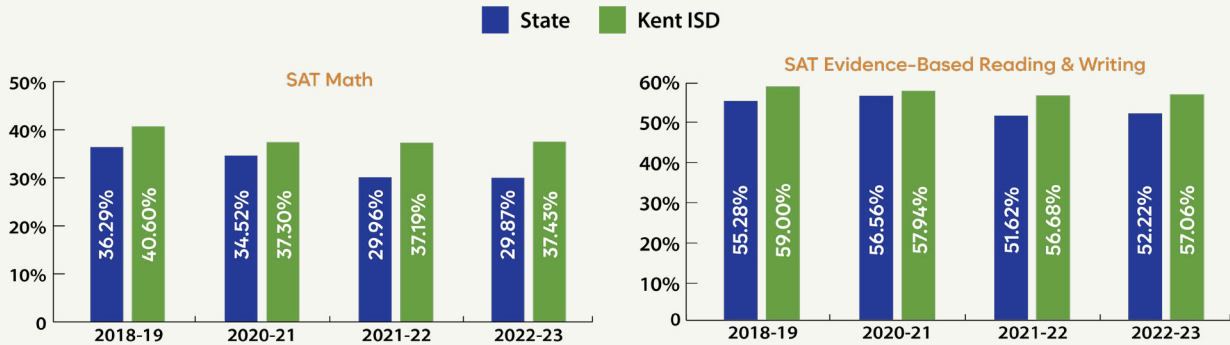
In 2022-23, students in Kent ISD scored 1.35% higher in math proficiency than they did four years ago, and they continue to score higher in math than the state average.

Scores in Evidence-Based Reading & Writing for students in Kent ISD are nearly on-par with pre-pandemic proficiency, recovering at a faster rate than students across the state.

Student Achievement

College Readiness

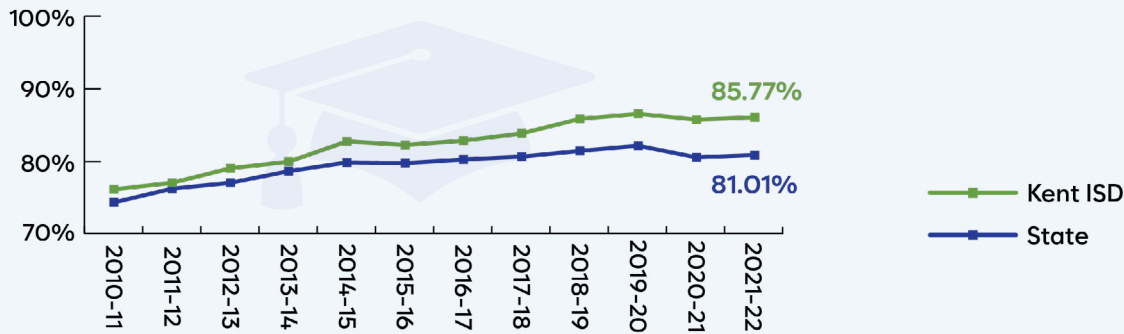
The percentage of high school students across Kent ISD meeting College Readiness benchmarks in Math and English Language Arts has consistently outpaced the statewide average.



Source: mischooldata.org

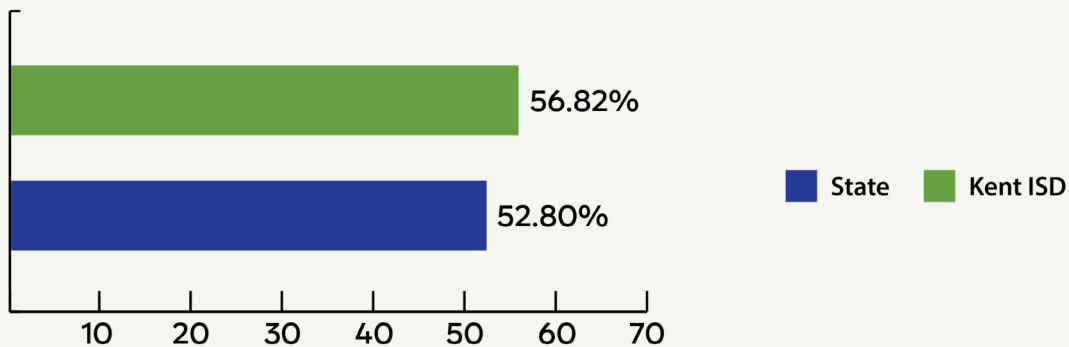
Graduation Rate

Kent ISD graduation rates have remained above the statewide rates for more than a decade, and beat the state average by more than 4 percentage points each year since 2018-19.



College Enrollment 2021-22

Kent ISD college enrollment rates outpace the state enrollment rate.



Source: *College Enrollment by High School Report*. Data is based on the number of students who enroll in a college or university within 6 months of graduating high school. Data is not yet available for 2022-23.

Our Initiatives

Districts throughout Kent ISD frequently work together to accomplish large-scale change, create new opportunities and meet student needs. The following pages highlight just a few of our collaborative initiatives.



The [MI Student Voice survey](#) is the first step in education leaders' vision to expand the definition of school quality beyond academic scores and to include feedback from students, parents and staff into school quality ratings.

Developed by local school leaders in 2019, the survey gauges student engagement, social-emotional learning and belonging, and provides a holistic picture of students' educational experience.

Thanks to grant support from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, in the 2022-2023 school year, the survey grew to reach students in 58 districts across the state and moved one step closer to fulfilling the vision.

Measuring



Engagement

Because engaged students are 2.5 times more likely to say they do well in school and 4.5 times more likely to be hopeful for their future.



Belonging

Because we must prepare students for success in an increasingly diverse world.



Social Emotional Learning

Because students need to build character, values and mindsets for success later in life



Our Initiatives

2023 Participation



33,366
students surveyed
statewide



58
districts
participated



students in
grades
5-12

2023 Findings

- There are gaps in social-emotional learning with differences based on gender and race.
- Roughly 1 in 5 students have low social-emotional learning.
- Engagement is highest in elementary grades and drops as students progress through grades.
- Growth mindset, the idea that students are capable of anything, is also highest in elementary grades.
- A sense of belonging at school is highest for elementary students.

Coming next

Spring
2024

Pilot & refine parent
& education surveys

Spring
2025

Parent & education
surveys fully implemented



Our Initiatives



Michigan's effort to increase the numbers of working-age adults with a skill certificate or college degree to 60% by the year 2030 is fittingly called Sixty by 30.

Because schools and educators play a key role in helping young people explore future options and develop educational and career paths, Kent ISD has been tasked with leading [Sixty by 30](#) efforts in Kent County. Our schools are honored to take on this challenge for our community and look forward to boosting Michigan's future workforce through new and existing opportunities.



[CareerPrep 2030](#) is a collaboration to identify and expand career awareness and preparation opportunities for students focused on career pathways and expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. This effort brings together local educators, business, community and non-profit leaders, harnessing and leveraging their collective ideas and knowledge in the interest of preparing students for careers and meeting the economic needs of our region.



The [Student Leadership Community](#) provides a forum for students to give input and share ideas to help better the educational experience for all local students. Members participate in leadership activities, media interviews and special events where their voices can be heard. The group of 45 high school students come from across Kent ISD's 20 school districts, public school academies and Kent Career Tech Center.



Our Initiatives



This innovative initiative from Kent, Muskegon and Ottawa Area ISDs and the districts within them, in partnership with Grand Valley State University, recruits, trains and supports aspiring teachers helping to fill the talent gap and ensure every student has an excellent teacher.

Thanks in part to a grant from the Michigan Department of Education, [West Michigan Teacher Collaborative](#) will create pathways for 300 existing and aspiring educators to obtain advanced credentials or earn a teaching degree, with many participants receiving a stipend up to \$20,000.



[Your Dream is Our Dream](#) showcases student success stories featuring interviews with and stories of students from across the area who are succeeding at every level from early childhood programs to pre-K, K-12, and Adult Ed, along with the educators who are helping them reach their dreams and goals. These student stories are shared on social media, in the Your Dream is Our Dream podcast produced in partnership with [WGVU](#), and on School News Network.

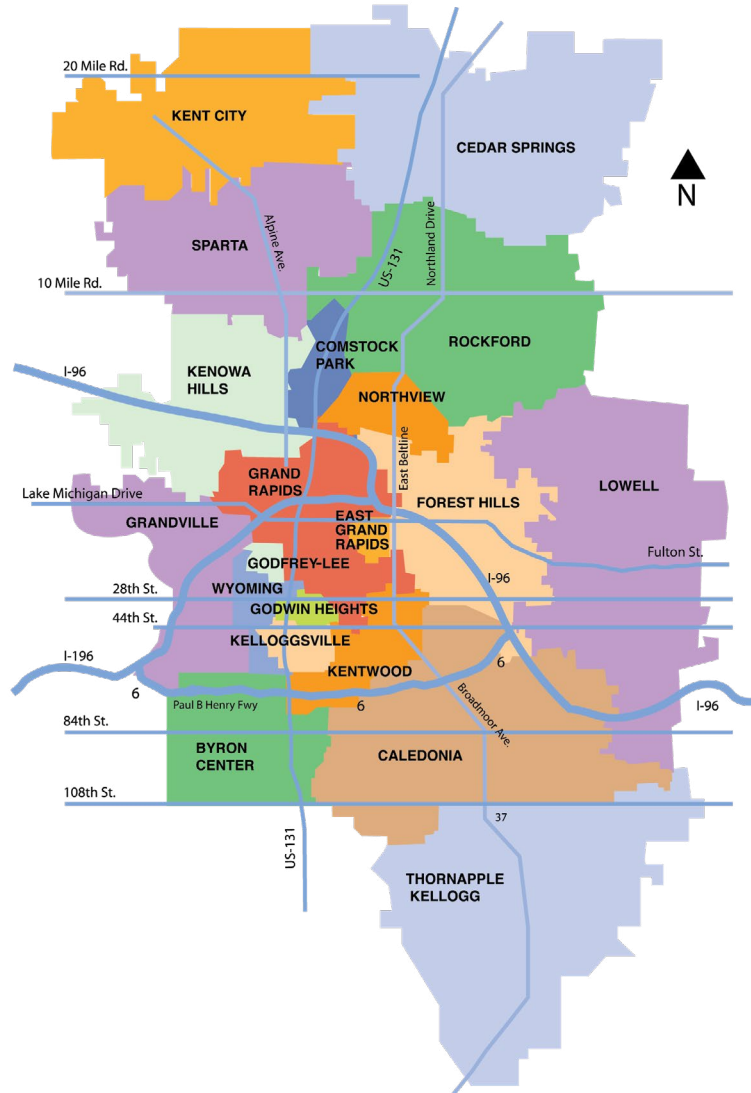


Celebrating 10 years of providing a window into the public schools of Kent ISD, [School News Network](#) specializes in sharing the stories of our schools. The experienced team of professional multi-media journalists covers classroom teaching and learning, analyzes the many issues that enhance or discourage student success, and highlights the magic that happens each day in our schools.



Districts in Kent ISD

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- [Grandville Public Schools](#)
- [Kelloggsville Public Schools](#)
- [Kenowa Hills Public Schools](#)
- [Kent City Community Schools](#)
- [Kentwood Public Schools](#)
- [Lowell Area Schools](#)
- [Northview Public Schools](#)
- [Rockford Public Schools](#)
- [Sparta Area Schools](#)
- [Thornapple Kellogg Schools](#)
- [Wyoming Public Schools](#)
- [Public School Academies](#)



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State of the Student

October 30, 2023

Thanks to the following partners for supporting students and schools, and making the Listen Learn Lead - State of the Student event possible.

