Explorers Academy of Science &Technology (EAST) 2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

The Sponsor's Statement

St. Aloysius, as the sponsor of this school, is legally mandated to provide oversight, monitoring, and technical assistance. As part of the monitoring process, the performance of the school is assessed and evaluated on each of the required Ohio School Report Card components. Additionally, St. Aloysius has a regular presence at school Board meetings where student performance indicators such as attendance, behavior, and academic achievement are tracked and financial and organizational issues that impact student success are reviewed and discussed. Key to the oversight, monitoring, and technical assistance is St. Aloysius' review of the school. Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) plan development and implementation. As a result of our thorough oversight and monitoring, St. Aloysius has determined that this school is substantially compliant with the rules and regulations governing community schools

The community school sponsors are required to submit a written report of the evaluation results of the school's academic, financial, and organizational performance, as well as the school's legal compliance with the Ohio Revised Code, Ohio Administrative Code, and the terms of the Community School contract. This report must be made available to parents of students enrolled in the community school by November 30th of each year under OAC 3301-102-05 (A) (3). An Annual Report regarding the performance of this school and other schools under the sponsorship of St. Aloysius will be posted on our website at www.stalschildren.org/charterschools and www.charterschoolspec.com no later than November 30, 2026. Parents are urged to review this report, in addition to other monitoring and evaluation reports available through the school or the sponsor for a full understanding of the school's performance.



Board Members:

Michale Story (President)

Shane Logan (Vice President)

Joseph Quin

Jon Talbert

Faye Smith

The School's Leadership Team

Mr. Keith Birkhold – Superintendent

Mr. Keith Birkhold is the visionary of the Explorers Academy of Science and Technology and also leads The Stellar Learning Consortium, managing organization for EAST. Stellar is a not-for-profit international collaboration to advance education globally. He holds a BA in Agriculture and Science from Ohio State and a Master in Fruit Crops with a minor in Food Resource Economics from the University of Florida. He brings both broad business and education experience to the EAST.

Dr. Mark Williams – Director of Operations

Dr. Woods was born and raised in Toledo. He has 34 years of experience working in education and has his Doctorate in Biblical Studies. He is well-known throughout the city for his involvement in many community events like the Lucas and Franklin County Children Services events. He is the minister of music at River of Life Church, the co-president of WRW Productions and is a Co-Founder of EAST.

Dr. Yuseff Woods – Director of Facilities

Dr. Woods is one of the Founding Fathers of the school. He has been working in education for over 25 years. He has over 30 years of working in Toledo City at large with organizations like Lucas County Children's Services, Sparrow's Nest, and the Family House. He has coordinated several gospel concerts to raise awareness of the need for foster homes for children and has coordinated numerous events to provide Christmas gifts and baskets for the less fortunate. He has a Doctorate in Theology and has received many awards and acknowledgments from the city of Toledo.

Ms. Deirdre Bruce - Principal

Deirdre Bruce Chalmers, hails from Detroit, Michigan. She is a former classroom teacher of 15 years, Instructional Coach, and Assistant Principal, with a proven track record and a wealth of experience working at Title I Schools; ensuring that all students have access to equal and equitable educational options. She has exhaustive training in coaching, SEL, diversity, Restorative Practices, Engaging parents, and classroom management. Deirdre is a lifelong learner, who holds a master's degree, in Urban Education, from Cambridge University.

Aaron Lusk – Assistant Principal – High School

Aaron Lusk is EAST High School leader, rooted in from a history in special needs instruction and school administration. He focuses on expanding opportunities for Toledo youth through innovative instruction and community partnerships by creating safe, supportive, and academically rigorous environments where every student has the chance to succeed.

Mr. Lusk is a proud U.S. Marine Corps veteran with two tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2001-2005. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University, a Master's degree from Bluffton University, a second from Webster University, and a third from Ball State University. In March 2023, he was awarded the Leader in Action award from WTOL 11 for his service to the community.

Brandon Richardson – Assistant Principal - Elementary

Brandon Richardson is a dedicated educational leader with more than 13 years of experience serving students in grades 4–8. A graduate of St. John's Jesuit High School and The University of Toledo, he spent over a decade in the classroom before transitioning into school administration in 2024.

Now serving as Principal of the K–4 building at Explorers Academy of Science and Technology, Mr. Richardson is committed to fostering academic excellence, supporting teachers, and creating a positive school culture where all students can thrive. He believes strong partnerships between schools, families, and the community are essential to student success. Mr. Richardson lives in Toledo, Ohio, with his wife and two children. Outside of school, he enjoys coaching, mentoring young people, and spending time with his family.

About Explorers Academy

Mission:

Explorers Academy of Science and Technology "EAST" is dedicated to providing a diverse student body with an outstanding college preparatory program, preparing students to succeed in life and the workforce. By creating a powerful learning community centered on core values and a shared commitment to academic excellence, EAST will produce students who excel in higher education and tomorrow's workforce. EAST students will be responsible, engaged citizens who are prepared to be leaders of the future.

Vision:

Statement EAST is dedicated to ensuring 100% of our students meet state standards in math, science, and language arts. EAST will create an innovative school where students acquire a rigorous academic foundation that they can apply to the community and world around them in meaningful ways. EAST students will leave our school with character and a sense of civic responsibility of which a significant percentage will assume leadership positions in an increasingly scientific and technology-based society. EAST will follow the guiding principles of rigor, integration, and personalization. EAST will be an innovative and model school that helps to redefine the American school experience. To meet these overall goals, EAST will employ the following specific goals: Establish a Culture of High Expectations; provide Effective Remediation and Support; implement a Balanced Curriculum Approach; and Integrate Technology to enhance classroom instruction.

Location:

EAST served K-10th grade at three Toledo locations for the 2025/2026 school year: K-4th grade at 719 Evesham Ave, Toledo, OH 43607, and serving 5-98th grades, at 1850 Airport Hwy., Toledo, and 9th and 10th grade at Owens Community College in Perrysburg, OH. Phone: 419-219-9758. The three campuses provide 26 classrooms.

Enrollment & Demographics:

Below you will find the enrollment data for the school.

Report: Student ADM & ADA
Printed Fri, Oct 11, 2024, 4:09 PM

Explorers Academy of Science and Technology
2023-2024
R322B

		Total Present	Avg Daily Att	Total Memb	Avg Daily Memb	% of Att	Days in Session	Total Absent	Total Late
Totals For Grade: 01	34.00	3,983.00	0.88	4,525.00	0.81	88.02	5,576.00	542.00	54
Totals For Grade: 02	46.00	5,490.00	0.91	6,005.00	0.80	91.42	7,544.00	515.00	63
Totals For Grade: 03	33.00	4,346.00	0.91	4,784.00	0.88	90.84	5,412.00	438.00	36
Totals For Grade: 04	24.00	3,538.00	0.90	3,922.00	1.00	90.21	3,936.00	384.00	35
Totals For Grade: 05	35.00	4,674.00	0.91	5,154.00	0.90	90.69	5,740.00	480.00	100
Totals For Grade: 06	30.00	3,711.00	0.89	4,190.00	0.85	88.57	4,920.00	479.00	89
Totals For Grade: 07	39.00	5,179.50	0.88	5,875.00	0.92	88.16	6,396.00	695.50	122
Totals For Grade: 08	17.00	2,235.00	0.92	2,438.00	0.87	91.67	2,788.00	203.00	70
Totals For Grade: KG	34.00	3,696.00	0.90	4,107.00	0.74	89.99	5,576.00	411.00	23
Final Totals	292.00	36,852.50	0.90	41,000.00	0.86	89.88	47,888.00	4,147.50	592

	Asian		Black or African American/Non-Hispanic		Hispanic/Latino		American Indian or Alaskan Native		Multiracial		Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander		White, Non-Hispanic				Total Enrollment
Grade Level	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
KG	0	0	8	12	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	25
01	0	0	13	11	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	29
02	0	0	19	11	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	38
03	0	0	9	14	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	30
04	0	0	9	11	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
05	1	0	16	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	31
06	0	0	12	9	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	27
07	0	0	21	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	34
08	0	0	9	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15

The Fundamentals:

EAST believes in educating the FULL child. As a result, the school dedicates the first 15 minutes of every school day to social-emotional learning in a school-wide morning meeting. In these meetings, we discuss at length our core values: Respect, Responsibility, Integrity, Courage, Curiosity, and Doing Your Best. Whole campus meetings are held Monday's and Fridays with smaller group meetings in each classroom Tuesday through Thursday.

The Goal:

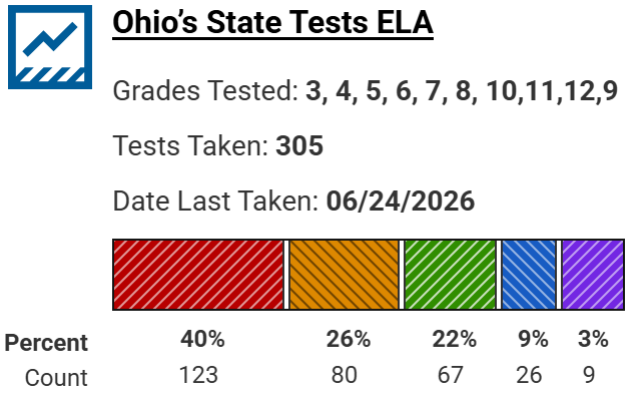
As stated in our Ohio One Plan, our Goal for the three-year plan is to decrease the number of students in the Limited Category on the OST assessment in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math by 10%. EAST has exceeded these two goals in the first two out of three years. This focus was taken to address the overwhelming number of students who were scoring Limited on the OST. They composed, in most cases, close to or over half of each grade level. While it is important to have more students testing at or above proficiency, our priority had to be the larger number of students that were at risk. The i-Ready assessments substantiated the data on the OST and further indicated how far below grade level the students were performing.

2025/2026 ACADEMIC REPORT

The charts below present EAST's historical data taken directly from the Ohio Centralized Reporting System. Below the bar graphs is a chart demonstrating the level of success EAST has had in lifting the neediest students up while maintaining a higher percentage of students scoring at proficiency and above.

OST Historical CRS

ELA



Ohio's State Tests ELA

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

Tests Taken: **264** Date Last Taken: **06/26/2025**



Percent	**48%**	**27%**	**17%**	**6%**	**1%**
Count	127	71	46	17	3

Ohio's State Tests ELA

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

Tests Taken: **190** Date Last Taken: **04/23/2024**



Percent	**50%**	**25%**	**18%**	**4%**	**3%**
Count	95	47	35	7	6

Ohio's State Tests ELA

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

Tests Taken: **140** Date Last Taken: **06/26/2023**



Percent	**58%**	**26%**	**9%**	**5%**	**1%**
Count	81	37	13	7	2

Ohio's State Tests ELA

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6**

Tests Taken: **100** Date Last Taken: **03/23/2022**



Percent	**59%**	**30%**	**7%**	**3%**	**1%**
Count	59	30	7	3	1

MATH

Ohio's State Tests Mathematics

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,11,12,9**

Tests Taken: **259**

Date Last Taken: **07/02/2026**



Percent	**55%**	**22%**	**17%**	**4%**	**2%**
Count	143	58	44	10	4

Ohio's State Tests Mathematics

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10,11,12,9**

Tests Taken: **213** Date Last Taken: **05/09/2025**



Percent	**64%**	**22%**	**10%**	**4%**	**1%**
Count	136	46	21	8	2

Ohio's State Tests Mathematics

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8**

Tests Taken: **160** Date Last Taken: **04/25/2024**



Percent	**76%**	**7%**	**12%**	**5%**
Count	122	11	19	8

Ohio's State Tests Mathematics

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6, 7**

Tests Taken: **113** Date Last Taken: **05/05/2023**



Percent	**79%**	**11%**	**8%**	**3%**
Count	89	12	9	3

Ohio's State Tests Mathematics

Grades Tested: **3, 4, 5, 6**

Tests Taken: **74** Date Last Taken: **04/06/2022**



Percent	**84%**	**12%**	**4%**
Count	62	9	3

SCIENCE

Ohio's State Tests Science

Grades Tested: **5, 8, 10,11,12,9**

Tests Taken: **79**

Date Last Taken: **04/23/2026**



Percent	**38%**	**44%**	**13%**	**5%**
Count	30	35	10	4

Ohio's State Tests Science

Grades Tested: **5, 8**

Tests Taken: **58** Date Last Taken: **04/04/2025**



Percent	**33%**	**40%**	**19%**	**7%**	**2%**
Count	19	23	11	4	1

Ohio's State Tests Science

Grades Tested: **5, 8**

Tests Taken: **45** Date Last Taken: **05/01/2024**



Percent	**49%**	**29%**	**11%**	**11%**
Count	22	13	5	5

Ohio's State Tests Science

Grades Tested: **5**

Tests Taken: **19** Date Last Taken: **05/02/2023**



Percent	**37%**	**37%**	**21%**	**5%**
Count	7	7	4	1

Ohio's State Tests Science

Grades Tested: **5**

Tests Taken: **20** Date Last Taken: **04/05/2022**



Percent	70%	20%	10%
Count	14	4	2

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ohio's State Tests Social Studies

Grades Tested: **10,11,12,9**

Tests Taken: **12** Date Last Taken: **04/16/2025**



Percent	25%	25%	50%
Count	3	3	6

ELA			MATH		
	Passed	Limited		Passed	Limited
2025/26	34%	40%	2025/26	23%	55%
2024/25	24%	48%	2024/25	15%	64%
2023/24	25%	50%	2023/24	17%	76%
2022/23	15%	58%	2022/23	11%	79%
2021/22	11%	59%	2021/22	4%	84%

SCIENCE			SOCIAL STUDIES		
	Passed	Limited		Passed	Limited
2025/26	18%	38%	2025/26	NA	NA
2024/25	28%	33%	2024/25	50%	25%
2023/24	22%	49%			
2022/23	26%	37%			
2021/22	10%	70%			

In the 2021/2022 school year, internal school progress monitoring was measured by NWEA. This assessment calculated proficiency levels using percentiles. In the subsequent years, i-Ready assessments were used to monitor progress. I-Ready uses scaled scores to calculate proficiency. The two are not compatible, but a gist can be discerned.

NWEA READ	Low <21%ile	Low Avg 21-20%ile	Avg 41-60%ile	High Avg 61-80%ile	High >80%ile
	42%	25%	22%	9%	4%

I-READY READING	≥3 YRS BELOW	2YRS BELOW	1YR BELOW	EARLY ON	MID/ABOVE
2022/23	15%	18%	43%	15%	8%
2023/24	21%	22%	33%	14%	10%
2024/25	15%	17%	38%	17%	12%
2025/26	15%	16%	37%	15%	16%

NWEA MATH	Low <21%ile	Low Avg 21-20%ile	Avg 41-60%ile	High Avg 61-80%ile	High >80%ile
SCH %	55%	23%	11%	8%	2%

I-READY MATH	≥3 YRS BELOW	2YRS BELOW	1YR BELOW	EARLY ON	MID/ABOVE
2022/23	19%	17%	44%	12%	8%

2023/24	19%	18%	48%	10%	5%
2024/25	19%	17%	44%	11%	9%
2025/26	17%	18%	43%	13%	9%

The i-Ready Growth Report defines typical growth as the average a student should grow in a year given his starting point and grade. Stretch growth is explained as the target set between the 55th and 80th percentile for a student to make accelerated growth. It is often considered the goal for students who are behind to close the gap. Although in reading, the percentage of students achieving typical growth has gone down slightly, it is still within the +3/-3 margin of error, and the school's progress towards typical growth still remains in respectable percentages. Math experienced a drop in all categories of growth on the i-Ready. This is somewhat of an enigma, as the OST Math test indicates a significant increase in students passing the test and a decrease in students failing it.

i-Ready Reading	Progress Toward Typical Growth	Typical Growth	Stretch Growth
2022/23	106%	54%	24%
2023/24	74%	41%	14%
2024/25	96%	48%	21%
2025/26	85%	45%	16%

i-Ready Math	Progress Toward Typical Growth	Typical Growth	Stretch Growth
2022/23	92%	46%	22%
2023/24	81%	39%	12%
2024/25	90%	41%	17%
2025/26	66%	33%	12%

Although the percentages may not appear to have improved radically in the i-Ready data, one must consider that EAST has grown from 189 tested in 2022/2023 to 353 tested in 2025/2026. This increase in numbers does not indicate the level of transiency in the district. Many incoming students tested 2 to 3 years below grade level, and the number of students in Special Education has grown disproportionately. All factors taken into account, the State gave EAST four stars in Gap Closing and four stars in Progress, with an overall achievement increase to 3 out of 5 stars.

Financials 2024/2025

Explorers Academy of Science and Technology

Annual Report Summary

For the Year Ending June 30, 2025
(Unaudited)

REVENUES	
State Sources	4,725,631
Federal Sources	846,505
Local Sources	54,505
TOTAL REVENUES	**5,626,641**
EXPENSES	
Salaries & Wages	2,503,020
Employee Benefits	528,432
Purchased Services	2,173,496
Supplies & Materials	281,772
Other Expenses	132,406
TOTAL EXPENSES	**5,619,126**