



## **Hamilton Flex School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

**Hamilton Flex Blended Learning**  
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### **Hamilton Flex MISSION STATEMENT**

**We strive to offer educational flexibility and learning opportunities to maximize student success and achievement across the district and in our community.**

#### **Blended Learning Program:**

*In meeting the needs of all learners, we commit to walking alongside our students in a meaningful, blended, learning-filled environment addressing individual learning styles, experiences and needs.*

#### **Virtual Learning Program:**

*In partnership with the community, we educate each learner to maximize personal potential. Through individualized instruction, students explore their interests, link their learning to the real world, and build the academic, social, and career skills necessary for life-long learning and success.*

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February 4, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-20 educational progress for the Hamilton Flex programs, Hamilton Virtual School and Hamilton Flex Blended Learning.

The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Kristie Noguera (HFVS) or Joy Zomer (HFBL) for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KjbSMvi1J0MqJBOxEy0AhtU2llu381WL/view?usp=sharing>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2019-20 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school was not given a label from the State of Michigan.

### **Philosophy and Initiatives for Hamilton Flex Programs:**

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Hamilton Flex offers a variety of options created to fit the needs of K-12 learners:

Hamilton Flex Blended Learning is a unique learning environment where students are able to learn in a flexible, student-centered space to access academic content that they have not mastered in a traditional classroom. A high percentage of our students are challenged by socio-economic factors or related challenges that live outside of the classroom, but affect day to day functioning and success. Our space works diligently to encourage students to gain traction in their education through sequential learning, differentiated instruction, and individualized remediation. The program focuses on being a trauma-resilient school where students can feel empowered to push themselves towards high school success.

- Our current school improvement initiatives include:
  - developing a learning environment where all students will thrive while also maintaining the integrity and character of education for Hamilton Community Schools
  - building a work-based learning model that connects the classroom to the workplace
  - creating module based units formed around CC standards to offer students the opportunity to achieve mastery regardless of modality

Hamilton Flex Virtual School is a completely online option for K-12 students with optional labs at the school for support. In addition to the online courses, electives with optional labs are available on campus and in the community. This option is ideal for students who prefer online learning, have a supportive learning coach at home, and are comfortable getting teacher support virtually. Courses are self paced and overseen by a mentor teacher weekly. Our students span four ISDs and the distance between school and students proves a challenge for testing and in person meetings for interventions and support.

- Our current school improvement initiatives include:
  - Reading: All students will be proficient in ELA as measured by the MStep.
  - Math: All students will be proficient in Math as measured by the MSTEP.
  - Creating online and in person career education opportunities for K-12 students.

## Hamilton Flex Academic Offerings:

The Hamilton Flex programs have an expectation that students will work to complete 6 courses, a full schedule, over the course of a semester. Over the course of a full school calendar year, the minimum expectation is 12 classes. Some variation occurs within the specific programs:

- Full time students at HFVS are enrolled in six courses over a semester with an option for two or more additional electives. Students work virtually on each of those courses throughout the semester
- HFVS offers homeschooled students opportunities to take the same electives offered to the full time students through shared time.
- Students at HFBL complete courses using sequential learning, thus, students work on 3 classes at a time. Students work in a blended learning environment where the expectation is to attend school 3 days a week and work virtually online 2 days a week. Teacher support is available regardless of the day of the week.

## Enrollment to HF Programs:

Transfers to HFVS: All parents of full time students complete an interview prior to enrolling in this program and parents sign an Online Learning Contract which details their role as the learning coach.

Any student enrolling full-time in grades 9-12 must meet minimum credit requirements for each grade level as transferred:

- 10th grade: transfer a minimum of 5 credits
- 11th grade: transfer a minimum of 10 credits
- 12th grade: transfer a minimum of 16 credits

HF Blended Learning Program: all students enrolling in this program will be asked to complete an interview process prior to admission into the program. The process is outlined below:

- **Initial Contact:** Contact is made between the student and the school's admitting officer. Prospective students will be offered the opportunity to complete the HF Blended entrance application.
- **Entrance Interview:** After completing the entrance application, prospective students and their parents or guardian will attend an interview with the Principal & staff.
- **Acceptance/Refusal:** If the interview process is successful, the student will be invited to join the program and sign an initial contract which outlines the student's commitment to the program as well as expectations. If the interview process is not successful for whatever reason, the student is welcome to apply at the next semester break.

## Awarding of Credit:

In concurrence with the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum legislation, a student will be awarded credit for a course by achieving a C+ (77%) or better on the final exam. Credit earned is based on a 'credit only' grade and will appear on the student's transcript as a 'CR'. Any Test Out credit will not affect the student's grade point average (GPA). Credit earned does count towards graduation.

Student coursework, aligned to the Michigan Merit Curriculum, is offered in a number of mediums. Students use online vendors such as Edmentum, Edynamic and Edgenuity as well

as teacher created and facilitated materials. Each option reflects a commitment to student mastery and learning using the means that work best for them.

Those interested in further details or information about our curriculum at Hamilton Flex can reach out to either Kristie Noguera or Joy Zomer for specific program information.

### Opportunities for Student Growth:

Students at Hamilton Flex have the opportunity to participate in a variety of experiences while students at Hamilton Community Schools. Offerings include:

- Careerline Tech Center
- Dual Enrollment
- AP Courses
- Co-Op
- Job Shadows and Internships on an individual basis

2019-20 Additional Educational Offerings:	# of Students:	Percentage of Total Student Population:
Careerline Tech Center	HFBL- 2/58 HFVS - 1/70	HF Blended Learning - .03% HF Virtual School - .01%
Dual Enrollment	HFBL- N/A HFVS - 1/70	HF Virtual School - .01%
AP Courses	HFBL- N/A HFVS - N/A	
Co-Op	HFBL- N/A HFVS - N/A	
Job Shadows/Internships	HFBL- 1/58 HFVS- N/A	HF Blended Learning - .02%

### Student Achievement:

The following M-Step and SAT standardized testing data is available about the Hamilton Flex Blended Learning program. The results are:

<u>Social Studies- M-Step</u>				<u>Science- M-Step</u>				<u>SAT Standardized Test</u>			
2016-17 <b>11th Grade</b>	School 50%	District 50%	State 46%	2016-17 <b>11th Grade</b>	School 50%	District 50%	State 33.6%	2016-17 <b>11th Grade</b>	MEAN Score: 855	% Met 50%	#s Tested: 12
2017-18 <b>11th grade</b>	School 50%	District 50%	State 48.5 %					2017-18 <b>11th grade</b>	MEAN Score: 823	% Met 50%	#s Tested: 10

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### Parent and Teacher Communication:

*Hamilton Flex Blended Learning:* The 2019-2020 school year offered a variety of opportunities for engagement. The following means were utilized:

<u>Fall, 2019-2020</u> Full Involvement	<u>Winter, 2020</u> Full Involvement	<u>Spring, 2020</u> Full Involvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1st Module Progress report</li> <li>• Parent phone calls, emails and conferences</li> <li>• 2nd Module Progress report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3rd Module Reports</li> <li>• Parent phone calls, emails and conferences</li> <li>• student-led conferences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ 41% involved</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4th Module Progress report</li> <li>• Parent phone calls, emails and conferences</li> </ul>

*Hamilton Flex Virtual School:* The 2019-2020 school year offered a variety of opportunities for engagement. Parents work closely with the teachers and teacher and phone calls, virtual meetings, emails, and conferences are available and utilized as needed.

The Hamilton Flex offerings, both the Virtual School and Blended Learning, continue to value our role as viable, meaningful programs for students in the Hamilton Community Schools and beyond. We are excited about the opportunities available to our students to grow academically and become involved in their education. Our programs strive to continually improve as they provide a quality education for all students who come through our doors while also offering a path to high school graduation and success.

We invite you to contact us if you have an interest in further information.

Sincerely,

Joy Zomer  
Principal and English Teacher  
Hamilton Flex Blended Learning

Kristie Noguera  
Principal  
Hamilton Flex Virtual School