

Homedale Elementary School Memo



To: Homedale Board of Trustees, Superintendent Rob Sauer
From: Dr. Tate B. Castleton, Principal
Date: January 5, 2026
Re: Report to Board of Trustees

STUDENT ENROLLMENT UPDATE AT HES: Here are the latest numbers from Homedale Elementary School as of 1/5:

K: 76
1: 89
2: 84
3: 91
4: 107

Total: 447

Female: 222 (49.9%)
Male: 225 (50.1%)

Attendance as of 1/5/26: 92.84%



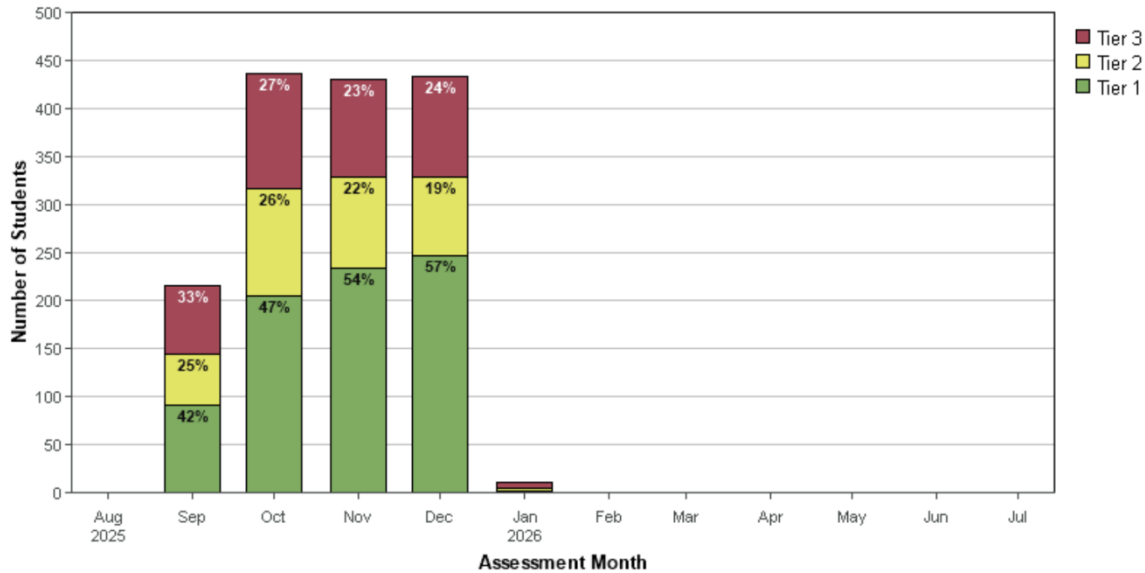
©Attendance Works

Here Today, Ready for Tomorrow!

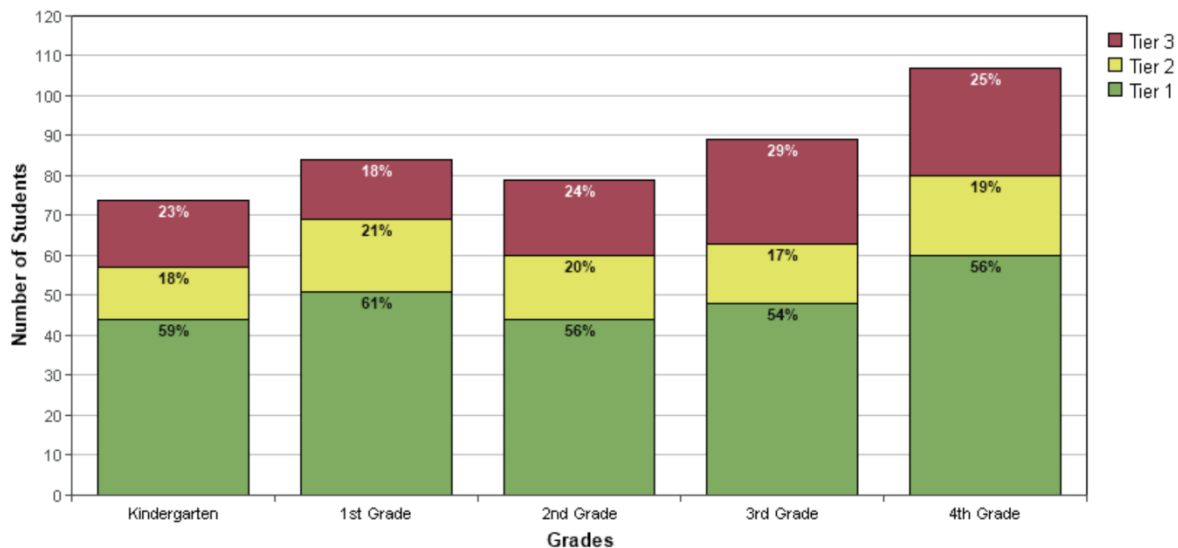


AMIRA PROGRESS AT HES: Amira is the state-approved, AI-powered assessment platform used to administer the mandatory Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) for K–3 students. It assesses students twice a year (fall and spring) by having students read aloud to an AI tutor that analyzes oral reading accuracy, fluency, and overall reading skills, helping identify students at risk for reading difficulties, including dyslexia. In addition to the required benchmark assessments, our school administers Amira monthly to closely monitor student progress, inform instruction, and target reading interventions more precisely.

All Grades - Overall Reading

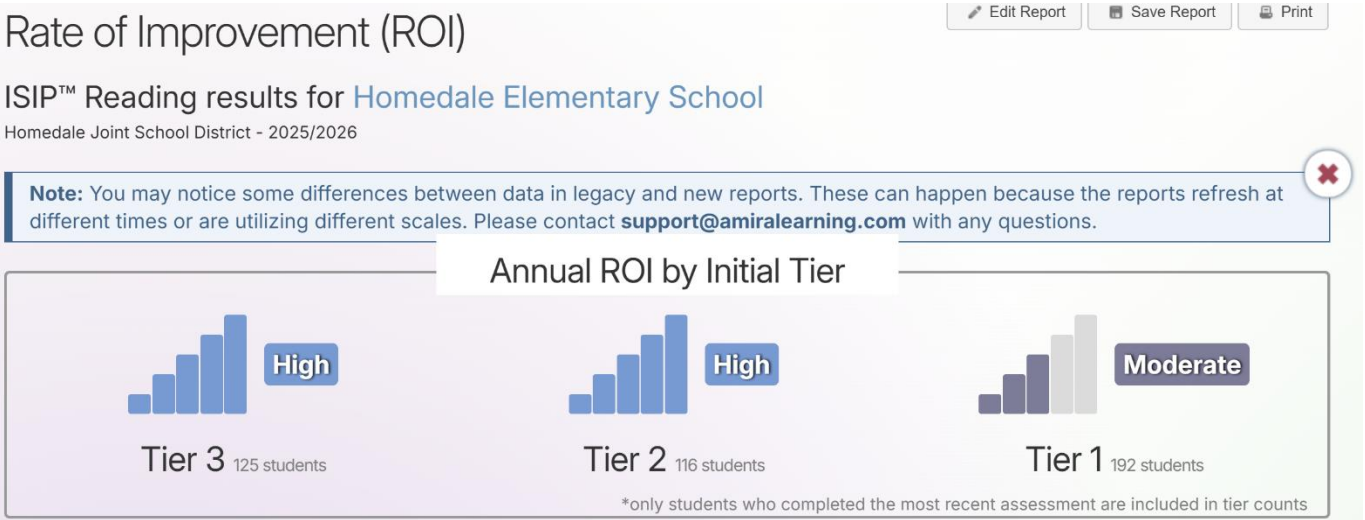


All Grades - December 2025



As a school we are making steady progress toward our year-end goal to have at least 70% of our students proficient on the AMIRA assessment by May. Achieving at least 70% proficiency on the state reading assessment reflects strong early literacy instruction and is critical to long-term student success. Early reading proficiency supports learning across all subjects, increases student engagement, reduces the risk of future academic struggles, and contributes to higher graduation rates and workforce readiness. Reaching this benchmark also indicates effective use of instructional practices and resources while establishing a foundation for lifelong learning and economic productivity.

As seen below, we are also seeing strong and consistent rates of improvement on AMIRA across the board.



Understanding Improvement Rates

How is the Rate Of Improvement (ROI) Calculated?

ROI is calculated by gauging the change in a student's percentile rank over time, i.e. comparing a student's past ISIP performance to that of their peers across multiple months. Only the last assessment score for each month is used in this calculation.

A student must be assessed in three distinct months before ROI can be calculated.

What Do the Ratings Mean?

Irrespective of Tier, a student can be rated with the following:

Rating	Average Annual %-tile Change*	Description
High	Increase by 8+	Students improving faster than expected will have a high rate of improvement, and are greatly exceeding that of their peers.
Moderate	Between an increase of 8 and a decrease of 2	This is the expected rate of improvement. A student with a moderate rate of improvement is keeping pace with their improving peers.
Low	Decrease by 2+	A student who is under performing is rated low. This student is not improving as quickly as their peers.
N/A	N/A	In order to measure ROI, at least three months with a completed assessment are required. Students without this data will have an n/a rating.

*Theoretical improvement/regression based on a student's trend of change in percentile rank over the year. The rating does not guarantee a student will end the year at a higher/lower percentile rank than they started; rather, the rating measures the average change in percentile rank across the school year.

Our teachers are working hard, continuously improving their craft, and consistently collaborate to meet every student’s needs. We will continue to work hard and focus on helping our students excel in reading and all other areas during the second half of the school year!

ANNUAL DECK THE DOORS CONTEST WINNERS: Our 4th Annual Deck the Doors contest was a lot of fun and we were excited to name this year's winners!



MOST CREATIVE DESIGN – YOUR DOOR HAS A CLEAR THEME AND IS WELL THOUGHT OUT AND DESIGNED.

CLASS/GRADE LEVEL WINNER: **EXTENDED RESOURCE (Taryn Cook & Team)**

VISUAL IMPACT – YOUR DESIGN MAKES THE JUDGES SAY “WOW!”

CLASS/GRADE LEVEL WINNER: **THE ENTIRE 4TH GRADE TEAM**

DECK THE DOORS GRAND PRIZE – YOUR DOOR IS HANDS-DOWN THE BEST OVERALL!

CLASS/GRADE LEVEL WINNER: **READING ROOM (Teri, Heather, & Team)**



MOST CREATIVE DESIGN:
Extended Resource –
Taryn Cook & Team



DECK THE DOORS GRAND PRIZE:
Reading Room - Teri, Heather, & Team



HONORABLE MENTION: 2D - Mrs. Anderson's Class

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 19 th	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 23 rd	Staff In-Service
February 6 th	Student Support Day/Staff In-Service
February 16 th	No School – President's Day
March 6 th	Student Support Day/Staff In-Service
March 12 th	End of 3 rd Quarter