**School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

January 3, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2021-22 educational progress for WAY Michigan. 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 James Middleditch for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [**https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D3jRkg\_Absbn9Xj\_SgMtN8uK40j4CzPe/view?usp=sharing**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D3jRkg_Absbn9Xj_SgMtN8uK40j4CzPe/view?usp=sharing)or you may review a copy in the main office at your child’s school.

For the 2021-22 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 subgroup in 2018-19. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2017-18. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2016-17. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

According to the Combined report WAY Michigan has a few key challenges to address. The first is with our four-year graduation rate. Currently, our four-year graduation rate is 30.51%. This is well below the 2020 Michigan objective of 86.30%. Part of this is due to enrolling students that are behind and giving them the best chance to graduate before they would age out. Students can enroll and graduate from our school as long as they do not turn 20 prior to the start of the current school year. To address this, we have a College and Career Coach that is working with students. Our College and Career Coach has been working with our Juniors and Seniors to help prepare them for post-secondary life. Hosting Junior and Senior intakes we have hoped to create a plan to address their needs to keep them on track for graduation. The other key challenge we have is with Math proficiency. When comparing the Grade 4 and Grade 8 Math scores for our students. 24% of students scored Below Basic understanding in 4th grade and in 8th grade 68% of students scored Below Basic. To address this issue, we have implemented a Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports program. This has helped us target the students in need and provide them with additional supports. The main support we use for Math is called the ALEKS Math. This is a supplemental program that focuses on improving student math skills. If students actively participate in the program, we have witnessed great improvements in their math skills.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

Our process for assigning pupils to our school includes enrolling students via our online school website https://www.wayprogram.net/enroll, recommendations from neighboring schools, flyers posted in the community and use of social media. WAY is open to all students in the state of Michigan and provides a safe and supportive non-traditional cyber educational setting for students to feel confident as they work their way to academic excellence. Once the student is enrolled, they participate in a two day orientation process. We have a staff member guide all new students through our program and demonstrate how to successfully complete work using our learning platform.

A copy of the School Improvement Plan is available by contacting the school or on our website at https://www.waymichigan.net/about/board. The WAY Michigan school improvement team consists of non-teaching staff, teaching staff, administration, parents, and students. We meet 1-2 times a month to review the school improvement plan and its corresponding goals and activities. The team reviews achievement, demographic, perception, and process data to develop, monitor, and evaluate school improvement goals. The plan is revised on an annual basis in accordance with requirements provided by the Michigan Department of Education. Currently, we have two goals. The first goal is to improve Math proficiency for our students by implementing instructional technology to enhance Math instruction and selecting a new student engagement strategy to increase student interest in Math. The second goal is to improve student attendane by implementing collective responsibility and improving our student support network.

Our curriculum can be accessed on our school website at www.wayprogram.net. The curriculum is based on the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Our school uses project-based learning to allow students to deeply explore concepts and skills embedded in the standards and accumulate course credit. Projects are designed by Highly Qualified teachers that encompass state and national standards. In addition to these projects, students have the ability to create personalized projects that focus on specific course standards in collaboration with teachers. The primary instructional method that is used with our students is Virtual Cohorts. We group students in instructional groups of up to 15 students to receive instruction in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies. We use a mixture of 1-on-1 and small group instruction and tutoring to address the elective needs for all of our students. We are Cognia (formally AdvancED) accredited: https://www.cognia.org/.

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| NWEA MAP Growth Test | Fall 2020 | Spring 2021 | Fall 2021 |
| Mathematics Proficiency | 48.6% | 42.1% | 60.7% |
| Reading Proficiency | 64.3% | 52.9% | 63.6% |

NWEA MAP Growth Test is the taken by all of our students. This data is used to track their growth in Mathematics and Reading skills. Our goal for all students is to perform at least at a proficient level. We have a lot of work do to close the achievement gaps of our students. We witnessed a decline in proficiency from Fall 2020 to Spring 2021, but there was an improvement in the Mathematic scores from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021. We have implemented the supplemental math program called ALEKS math to increase math skills. We plan to hire a math teacher for after school hours math support. We will be focusing on using Exact Path, a supplemental reading program, to help with reading deficiencies. Additionally, we have a district Reading Specialist that is providing reading intervention for the lowest performing students.

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| SAT  | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 |
| Proficient Math | Proficient ELA | Proficient Math | Proficient ELA |
| State of Michigan | N/A | N/A | 34.5% | 56.6% |
| WAY Michigan | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/ A |

During the 2020-2021 school year WAY Michigan had less then 10 students take the SAT. When less then 10 students take the test the data is unable to be reported. During the 2019 - 2020 school year, WAY Michigan was unable to participate in the state required assessments due to COVID-19. The SAT is the culmination of the pre-testing called PSAT taken in 8-10th grade. The SAT is a nationally normed test. Our goal for improve the percent of students that are scoring at a proficient level. We have a lot of work do to close the achievement gaps of our students. We have implemented the supplemental math program called ALEKS math to increase math skills. We plan to hire a math teacher for after school hours math support. We will be focusing on using Exact Path, a supplemental reading program, to help with reading deficiencies. Additionally, we have a district Reading Specialist that is providing reading intervention for the lowest performing students.

Over the course of the 2020-21 school year we had 100% or 191 parents participate in parent-teacher communications. Additionally, during the 2019-20 school year, 100% or 186 parents at WAY Michigan participated in parent-teacher communications.. They are provided access to our parent portal to view student progress with completing standards, credits attained and attendance history. Parents are able to send comments to teachers and set up meetings with their teacher and/or school leader at WAY Michigan. Additionally, on-going conferences are conducted to re-engage students. Students are mentored by certified teachers that required to host at least 1 student-led conference per year. Currently, we actively communicate with parents via progress reports mailed out, conference calls and student-led conferences. Ultimately, we believe that involving parents in their student’s education will improve the probability of a higher academic outcome. Our school works best when parents demonstrate an active interest in their child’s education forming a partnership of academic success along with the teacher. During our parent meetings in the 2020-21 school year we have averaged 1.27% present each month. Additionally, we send a recording of the meeting for parents to review on their own time. We hope to continue to increase parent involvement this school year.

W-A-Y Michigan does not offer any International Baccalaureate courses. For the 2020-2021 and 2019-20 school years WAY Michigan had offered two AP courses, AP Microeconomics and AP English Language and Composition. No students participated in the AP or International Baccalaureate courses for the 2020-21 and 2019-20 school years. We had two students or 1.0% participate in dual enrollment for the 2020-21 school year. We had five or 3.5% participate in dual enrollment for the 2019-20 school year. 100% of students that participated in dual enrollment earned grades high enough to receive college credit for the 2020-21 school year. 80% of students that participated in dual enrollment earned grades high enough to receive college credit for the 2019-20 school year.

W-A-Y Michigan is committed to providing an outstanding educational program for all our students. We strive to ensure quality instructional support is given to our students as they work towards high school success and prepare for achievements throughout college, career and life. We look forward to continually improve our services and provide a premier education to ignite and brighten our Michigan youth.

Thank you all for being supportive of your students and our goals at WAY Michigan. We look forward to continuing our work with you and your students. We are continuously improving, even if taking small steps at times. As a community we must continue to look forward and provide opportunities for everyone to be engaged and experience success at WAY Michigan.

Sincerely,

James Middleditch

Director of Programs

WAY Michigan