



W-A-Y™ MICHIGAN
Widening Advancements for Youth

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 15, 2020

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 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 web site https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PRlvN2D8_c09fLSnJdQ6WlvUC4_D1W11/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 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 36.31%. This is well below the Michigan base line data of 79.79%. Part of this is due to enrolling students that are behind and giving them the best chance to graduate before they would age out. 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 Tiered Support 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 Program. 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 educational setting for students to feel confident as they work their way to academic excellence. Once the student is enrolled, they participate in an orientation process where a staff member guides them through our program and 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, and parents. We meet regularly to review the school improvement plan and its corresponding goals and activities. The team reviews achievement, demographic, perception, and process data to develop school improvement goals. The plan is revised on an annual basis in accordance with requirements provided by the Michigan Department of Education. Our current five-year goal is to create a Cyber school environment that demonstrates continuous improvement and community engagement. To do so we plan to target credit attainment, student and parent engagement, allocation of staff, skill building with students and parents, and summer expectations for a year-round school.

Our curriculum can be accessed on our school website at www.wayprogram.net. The curriculum is based on the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Project-Based Learning is the vehicle through which students deeply explore concepts and skills embedded in the standards towards accumulating course credit. Projects are designed by Highly Qualified teachers that encompass all of the state and national standards. In addition to these projects, students have the ability to co-create standards focused projects in collaboration with teachers. Constructivist learning is the foundation for all work that students do, and how teachers co-create learning experiences. We are AdvancED accredited: <http://www.advanc-ed.org>.

NWEA MAP Growth Test	Fall 2018	Spring 2019	Fall 2019
Mathematics Proficiency	34.6%	41.7%	37.5%
Reading Proficiency	69.2%	62.5%	50%

During the 2019 - 2020 school year, WAY Michigan participated in the Charter authorizer required assessments. NWEA MAP Growth Test is taken by our middle school 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 did not test in the Spring 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We have a lot of work to do to close the achievement gaps of our students. We witnessed general improvement in the Mathematic scores. 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 two programs to help with reading deficiencies. We are using Flocabulary and Exact Path to provide supplemental support to our students that need tiered support. Additionally, we hired a reading tutor to assist the lowest performing students.

SAT	2018-2019 Proficient Math	2018-2019 Proficient ELA
State of Michigan	36.3%	55.3%
WAY Michigan	≤20%	33.3%

During the 2019 - 2020 school year, WAY Michigan was unable to participate in the state required assessments due to COVID-19. The Scores provided are from the 2018-19 school year. 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 two programs to help with reading deficiencies. We are using Flocabulary and Exact Path to provide supplemental support to our students that need tiered support. Additionally, we hired a reading tutor to assist the lowest performing students.

Over the course of the 2019-20 school year, 100% or 186 parents at WAY Michigan participated in parent-teacher communications. Additionally, we had 100% or 181 parents participate in parent-teacher communications for the 2018-19 School year. 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 and home visits 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 this year we have averaged 3.15% 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 had offered no International Baccalaureate courses. For the 2019-20 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 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. We had three students or 1.7% participate in dual enrollment for the 2018-2019 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 2018-19 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
WAY Michigan