

*Providing quality education*



*and life skills for all students.*

## School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 29, 2019

Dear Parent and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2018-19 educational progress for the Youth Advancement Academy. 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 Jon DeCou for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://www.kresa.org/Page/1933> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2017-18 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 three or more underperforming student subgroups. 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.

\* Note TSI and ATS definitions were changed for the 2018-19 school year per federal requirements. The new definitions are:

- TSI – The school has at least one subgroup performing in the bottom 25% within each applicable accountability index component.
- ATS – The school has met the criteria for TSI identification and has at least one subgroup performing at the same level as a CSI school.

Our school was not identified as a TSI or ATS school. Youth Advancement Academy has low enrollment numbers which allows our program to focus on closing achievement gaps and provide a high-quality educational experience in a safe, student-centered environment. Youth Advancement Academy is committed to ensuring all students within the program are given the best opportunity and resources available to be successful and a model community member for the present and future.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Students are eligible to enroll in Youth Advancement Academy if they have been expelled by their local school district and/or have been ordered by the court system to attend. Students who meet these requirements are eligible to return in concurrent years and are eligible to attain a Youth Advancement Academy diploma by fulfilling the school graduation requirements.

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2. The school improvement plan for Youth Advancement Academy has been active for the past three years. Youth Advancement Academy will be analyzing the school improvement plan effectiveness and goal attainment during the 2019-20 school year and develop a new improvement plan accordingly to enact for the 2020-21 school year.
3. Youth Advancement Academy is a specialized, single building district school that focuses on students who have been expelled and/or court ordered to attend. The school is intentional in it's efforts to provide a high quality educational experience for the targeted student population.
4. Core curriculum can be obtained from the school office at 6750 Chime Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009. Curriculum follows state content standards and expectations. The curriculum has been vetted to ensure the highest quality curriculum is used that is best aligned to the Michigan content standards. As a result, the core curriculum uses multiple platforms for core classes.
5. Due to the low enrollment numbers, student data pertaining to standardized assessments is not available.
6. During the 2018-19 school year, Youth Advancement Academy had 100% attendance for enrollment intake meetings with students and parent(s) or legal guardians. There was 0% attendance for fall and spring parent/teacher conferences. This decline in participation for parent/teacher conferences is concerning and is a target for Youth Advancement Academy moving forward.
7. Youth Advancement Academy does not participate in any postsecondary enrollments, provide any college level equivalent courses, and/or college level equivalent credit examinations. However, inclusion of dual enrollment is a target area for Youth Advancement Academy to provide more opportunities for students as they work towards graduation.

We are proud of the families and students that Youth Advancement Academy serves and want every student, regardless of their past, to feel welcome and able to achieve excellence within our program. We are committed to creating positive, long-lasting relationships to foster student success during and after program involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon DeCou', written in a cursive style.

Jon DeCou  
Director