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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | [**YOUTH ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY**](https://q76y71yn.r.us-east-1.awstrack.me/L0/https:%2F%2Fpolo.feathr.co%2Fv1%2Fanalytics%2Fcrumb%3Fflvr=email_link_click%26t_id=66eaf90b02f5e00ca0654a88%26a_id=6499a477156f0a1c75aa10a7%26e_id=659d83c5c60e6e9176979fec%26cpn_id=66eaf8e6680c0242c91af92a%26per_id=6568e921e480770af760b702%26email_addr=jeff@accessvision.tv%26rdr=https%253A%252F%252Famplifykalamazoo.com%252Fcommunity%252Fkalamazoos-youth-advancement-academy%252F/2/010001922ee628a8-b55e16b7-84f3-41e3-a263-46adb247f5a8-000000/Bq28PmqC4RXuemOsS9mdIBvhZfs=393) | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency (KRESA) offers area families with special needs students such as Woods Edge Learning Center which specializes in cognitively impaired students, including those with autism or Down Syndrome. Far lesser known are resources for students who test the limits of traditional schools due to violent or “unruly” behavior. The [Youth Advancement Academy](https://q76y71yn.r.us-east-1.awstrack.me/L0/https:%2F%2Fpolo.feathr.co%2Fv1%2Fanalytics%2Fcrumb%3Fflvr=email_link_click%26t_id=66eaf90b02f5e00ca0654a88%26a_id=6499a477156f0a1c75aa10a7%26e_id=659d83c5c60e6e9176979fec%26cpn_id=66eaf8e6680c0242c91af92a%26per_id=6568e921e480770af760b702%26email_addr=jeff@accessvision.tv%26rdr=https%253A%252F%252Famplifykalamazoo.com%252Fcommunity%252Fkalamazoos-youth-advancement-academy%252F/3/010001922ee628a8-b55e16b7-84f3-41e3-a263-46adb247f5a8-000000/355BMsSMoTi-7K_gQPItzySjz_Q=393) (YAA), a program offered by KRESA, steps up to give these students a path to a hopeful future.   Tucked into the Oakland neighborhood, the Youth Advancement Academy provides at-risk students an alternate route to a high school diploma. This unique charter school serves middle school and high school students who have been expelled from public school or are assigned to YAA by court order. According to the YAA page on the KRESA website, “The Academy works with the court system, parents and legal guardians, local law enforcement agencies and area social service agencies to focus on the needs of this unique group of students who are traditionally underserved and overlooked.”   One of YAA’s greatest challenges is that not enough people, including teachers and other educators, know that KRESA offers this program to students and families. In [this introductory video](https://q76y71yn.r.us-east-1.awstrack.me/L0/https:%2F%2Fpolo.feathr.co%2Fv1%2Fanalytics%2Fcrumb%3Fflvr=email_link_click%26t_id=66eaf90b02f5e00ca0654a88%26a_id=6499a477156f0a1c75aa10a7%26e_id=659d83c5c60e6e9176979fec%26cpn_id=66eaf8e6680c0242c91af92a%26per_id=6568e921e480770af760b702%26email_addr=jeff@accessvision.tv%26rdr=https%253A%252F%252Famplifykalamazoo.com%252Fcommunity%252Fkalamazoos-youth-advancement-academy%252F/4/010001922ee628a8-b55e16b7-84f3-41e3-a263-46adb247f5a8-000000/mYixEEouHveybszURDSjLCqpEbU=393), Stacey Smith, Director at Youth Advancement Academy, talks about the program, the school, and their approach to making sure even the most at-risk students are given a chance to succeed in life. | | |