



School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

April 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for W-A-Y Academy Southwest Campus. 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 Heather Manning for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://goo.gl/ZAdzTh>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 year, no new Priority or Focus schools were named; some Priority or Focus schools did exit their status because they met the exit criteria. New Reward schools were identified using school rankings and Beating the Odds information. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap between the highest and lowest achieving 30% of schools. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Reward school is one that has achieved one or more of the following distinctions: top 5% of schools on the Top-to-Bottom School Rankings, top 5% of schools making the greatest gains in achievement (improvement metric), or "Beating the Odds" by outperforming the school's predicted ranking and/or similar schools. 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.

The key challenges we face as a school are to increase student scores on our state standardized tests to include the PSAT, SAT and MSTEP. Although we did not achieve the state minimum SAT score, our 2015-16 SAT composite data showed an increase from the previous 2014-15 as well as 2013-14 school year. The upward trend informs us that we are headed in the right direction.

Sat Trend

SAT 2014-2015	SAT 2015-2016	SAT 2016-2017
780-800	830	835

We now have support from Academic Approach to provide instructional support specific to our PSAT and SAT data. Due to our English Learner (EL) student population, we also face challenges with moving our EL students instructionally. To close this gap, we are able to use our Title funds to bring in training for instructional staff teaching our EL students as well as

instructional materials and programs to assist EL student and teachers as a supplement to the content.

Our process for assigning pupils to our school includes enrolling students as walk-ins, via our online school website, recommendations from neighboring schools, flyers posted in the community and canvassing the surrounding neighborhoods. 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.

In the 3-5 year School Improvement Plan for WAY Academy Southwest, the updates regarding areas identified for improvement include the implementation of Academic Approach as a tool to analyze testing data and improve teacher instruction as it relates to the testing data. The next area of improvement pertains to parent involvement. To address this area parent events such as FAFSA workshops are scheduled as well as other parent events to bring in our parents as stakeholders. Another area of improvement being addressed is college readiness. We are currently a part of MCAN (Michigan College Access Network) which is a grant awarded to assist schools with implementing a college pathways plan to prepare students for college entrance and success.

Our curriculum can be accessed on our school website at www.wayprogram.net. The curriculum is based on the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Sunshine State Standards, and Michigan Curriculum Framework standards. 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 AdvanceED accredited: <http://www.advanc-ed.org>.

All of our parents at WAY Academy have access to our parent portal to view student progress with completing standards, credits attained and attendance history. Parents can leave comments for teachers and can set up meetings on an individual bases with teacher and/or school leader at WAY Academy. During our last parent night we saw an increase in attendance from previous events from less than 5% to nearly 10%. We will continue to expand our efforts and work to increase parent involvement.

Southwest has one student who is currently dual-enrolled. Students also have opportunities to pursue and complete AP courses given they are academically achieving at that level. At this time we do not have any students, 0% working on an AP course and 0% of students receiving a score leading to college credit. WAY is a personalized learning experience for all students. WAY offers an innovative approach to education, one that encourages self-esteem, independence and the development of 21st Century skills that will facilitate a college education and subsequent career paths.

W-A-Y Academy Southwest is proud of our student achievement, and instructional/support staff's commitment to helping our students work toward high school success as they prepare for

postsecondary achievements. We look forward continually improving our services and community involvement to brighten the futures of youth in Southwest Detroit.

Sincerely,

Heather Manning
Assistant Director