W-A-Y ACADEMY
Widening Advancements for Youth
SOUTHWEST CAMPUS

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 3, 2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) to provide key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for the W-A-Y Academy Southwest. 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 Cameron Nichols for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eFKWm_6oALnnLZ85HsDEGe36baGT7DdY/view?usp=sharing or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2023-24 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 been identified as a CSI school. Our four-year graduation rate fell well below the 67% target. There are key challenges our students face. Many students come to us several grade levels behind and struggle with reading and math. We have implemented several initiatives to raise our graduation rate, reading and math scores. We are working in partnership with Wayne RESA. Wayne Resa supplies Professional Development for staff. We also have employed an Engagement Coach, Attendance Liaison and SEL Counselor. We have also increased the amount of supplemental reading and math programs. This year we will be hosting summer school which will target students who need extra support.

During the 2023-2024 school year, W-A-Y Academy Southwest will test in the Fall, Winter and Spring using NWEA assessments. Previously, we used the Performance Series for the benchmark assessments for the 2021-2022 school year. For the 2022-2023 & 2023-2024 school year we used NWEA which allows for progress monitoring throughout the year in both ELA and Math.

Performance Series	Reading Gains/Drops	Math Gains/Drops	Total Gains/Drops
2021-2022	+11	-35	-24

NWEA	% Met Growth Target Math	% Met Growth Target Reading
2022-2023	31.7%	20.5%
2023-2024	34.5%	18.3%

For the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, & 2023-24 school year, W-A-Y Academy Southwest had less than the mandated 10 students take the test in order to be reported.

State Testing - SAT	2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024	
	Math Proficiency	Reading Proficiency	Math Proficiency	Reading Proficiency	Math Proficiency	Reading Proficiency
State Average %	30%	51.6%	29.9%	52.2%	26.3%	51.3%
WAY Academy Southwest %	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Math continues to be a struggle. We have increased our focus and tutoring to support students who have math issues. Our Math Lab Expert consistently meets with students throughout the day. They spend time with our ELL students who take up over 50% of our school roster. We also provide support through after-school tutoring along with one on one help.

Some of the goals and focus for the 2023-2024 school year included the use of Trauma Informed Support and Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports. We are also involving our students in robotics to increase their skill set in computational thinking in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM). Our continued use of critical thinking skills, increased positive teacher/student relationships, intentional use of strategies to improve student achievement, and the use of data to impact differentiated instruction are making a positive impact on our school community.

Due to our English Language Learner (ELL) student population, we plan to hire an additional Bilingual Specialist that is dedicated to servicing our ELL population. As another layer of support to close this instructional gap, we are able to use Title funds to bring in training and to attend Bilingual Conferences for instructional staff teaching our ELL students as well as implement the use of instructional materials and programs to assist ELL students.

Our process for assigning pupils to our school includes: enrolling students as walk-ins, via our online school website https://www.wayprogram.net/enroll, recommendations from neighboring schools, flyers posted in the community and canvassing the surrounding neighborhoods. W-A-Y Academy Southwest 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 by using our learning platform and model through an induction process.

In the 3-5 year MICIP Plan (Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process) for W-A-Y Academy Southwest, the updates regarding areas identified for improvement include the implementation of Early Warning Intervention and Monitoring Systems (EWIMS). Another area of improvement pertains to parent involvement. To address this area parent events are scheduled on a quarterly basis to engage parents as stakeholders to get actively involved and acquainted with our program. Also, based on the requirements of the Michigan Department of Education, the MICIP Plan (Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process) is revised on an annual basis by staff members, parents/guardians and student input. Last area of improvement being addressed is College and Career Readiness (CCR). To address CCR, we look to implement workshops that address college and career pathways to prepare students for post-secondary transitions.

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 Cognia accredited: http://www.cognia.org.

Over the course of the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years, we engaged 100% of our parents at W-A-Y Academy Southwest to have access to our parent portal to view student progress with completing standards, earned credit and attendance history. Parents are able to send comments to teachers and set up meetings with their teacher and/or school director at W-A-Y Academy Southwest. Additionally, on-going conferences and home visits are conducted to re-engage students.

Currently, we actively communicate with parents via progress reports mailed out, Schoolmint messages, conference calls and parent-teacher 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. Parents were actively learning how to navigate in our digital platform and understand how to attain immediate data on the progress of their child. We will continue working to increase parent involvement.

Our mission at W-A-Y Academy Southwest is to change lives, through engaging and encouraging experiences, for all students and families. 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 improving our services to provide a premier education that ignites and brightens our youth in Southwest Detroit.

Sincerely,

Cameron Nichols
Program Director