



January 31, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2015-16 educational progress for WSC Academy-Ypsilanti 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 Eileen Prihoda, Principal or Portia Davis Mann, School Leader for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <http://wsc-academy.org/transparency>, or you may review a copy in the principal's office at WSC Academy.

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.

WSC Academy showed growth in **all** academic areas: In English Language Arts, 21.4% of students demonstrated above average growth and 50% of students demonstrated average growth. In Math 28.6% demonstrated above average growth and 57.1% of students demonstrated average growth. In science, 35.7% of students demonstrated above-average growth and 35.7% demonstrated average growth. In Social Studies 6.7% of students demonstrated above average growth and 66.7% demonstrated average growth.

While WSC Academy has graduated over 120 students in the past four years, graduation rates continue to be a challenge based on the alternative school designation.

WSC Academy has a 50% attendance waiver due to our flexible scheduling. Attendance was greatly improved as daily attendance requirements were met for the 2015-16 school year. As the demographics change to include more 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students, we are experiencing great attendance from our efforts of constant contact and failure-to-attend accountability.

#### College and Career Readiness:

Overall, 17.6% of WSC Academy students met the benchmark for College Readiness. 35.3% met the Reading and Writing benchmark and 17.6% met the benchmark for Math.

After nearly 45 years of the MEAP, the state transitioned to administration of the M-STEP assessment this past spring. Your child was faced with a more challenging test. Michigan has adopted higher standards for students in English language arts and mathematics, and the M-STEP was built to see how close our students are to reaching them. This year's test scores may be lower than results from the MEAP test, because the M-STEP is not just new, it's more challenging. This is not a reflection on WSC Academy students, but on all the progress that has been happening across Michigan. WSC Academy students were not proficient in this area. Continued academic work will be completed to ensure positive results in the coming year. A link to our data is: <https://goo.gl/45gHJh>  
This provides our M-Step data for 2015-16.

WSC Academy continues to have highly qualified teachers in all core content areas.

1. WSC Academy is a school of choice. Students are required to apply in order to attend the school. All students are accepted, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or disability based on capacity.
2. The School Improvement Plan is in its fourth year, although some of the goals have changed. The School Improvement Plan has been changed to reflect the need for increasing math and reading levels across the board. The school improvement plan is now fully updated and will be followed for the next 3 to 5 years to monitor program success and the affect it is having on student achievement.
3. WSC Academy is a specialized school in that it does not follow the traditional school model. WSC Academy offers flexible scheduling so that students can learn and achieve at their own pace. Students are in session four days a week, and those with flexible schedules must work at home to complete the online portion of their learning. WSC Academy provides a much more individualized instruction method for the students enrolled at the school, with small class sizes and small group instruction as well.

4. All classes offered by WSC Academy are online through PLATO online learning. Students at WSC Academy will be enrolled in PLATO online learning classes, and will take three credits per semester. WSC Academy is different than traditional schools in that student learning is very self-directed, with students being able to take classes that they are interested in as well as required classes in the order they want to progress. Students will also have much more individualized instruction and smaller class sizes within the curriculum than you would find in a traditional school setting.
5. The majority of curriculum offered at WSC Academy is online. Parents can check student progress anytime from an internet ready computer. There were four Parent/Teacher Conferences conducted throughout the year. Approximately 15% of parents were in attendance at these conferences.
6. WSC Academy does currently offer dual enrollment. The Academy has a Dual Enrollment agreement with Cleary University and also is able to access Washtenaw and EMU opportunities that were used in the past. Advanced Placement classes are offered through our Plato online curriculum.

WSC Students earn their credits through our online courses, but are given additional instruction by our highly qualified teaching staff. We enroll both traditional and non-traditional students and we, therefore, approach the curriculum differently than other area programs. The curriculum at WSC Academy is individualized to each student's needs. Students who are identified as needing additional support with reading and math are coached to increase their comprehension in small reading and math workshop courses.

With the Academy's blended learning model, students are empowered to make choices in their educational path. Upon completing a course, students complete an individual, partnered, and small group project demonstrating their ability to apply the knowledge of their content to a real world application. The projects prepare students for careers or college where they must propose a project, work creatively on the project, receive feedback and revise based on the feedback.

WSC Academy also offers Instructor Led/Project-based Learning (PBL). Project-based learning is an instructional method that provides students with complex tasks based on challenging questions or problems that involve the students' in problem solving, decision making, investigative skills, and reflection that includes teacher facilitation. PBL is focused on questions that drive students to encounter the central concepts and principles of a subject hands-on. PBL is a unique teaching technique that promotes and practices new learning habits, emphasizing creative thinking skills by allowing students to find that there are many ways to solve a problem.

Sincerely,

Eileen Prihoda, Principal

Portia Davis-Mann, School Leader

WSC Academy-Ypsilanti Campus