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# School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

January 31, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-20 educational progress for the Covenant House Academy Detroit, East Site. 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 Nathaniel King for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: <https://mischooldata.org/annual-education-report-1/>, or you may review a copy in the school main office.

For the 2019-20 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In accordance with (ESSA) 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 2019-20 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 has not been given any of these labels**: “Targeted Support and Improvement”, “Additional Targeted Support”, “Comprehensive Support and Improvement” School.

**Challenges and Initiatives**

Being an alternative school, we have many challenges including attendance and academic difficulties. Although, many of our students have difficulty getting to school, and once they are at school, they struggle because they have missed some steps in their educational careers.

The major challenge this year has been the global pandemic. State assessments were waived removing opportunity to compare data from the previous year (2019-20) and the school shifted to a remote classroom environment.

Continuous efforts are being made to close the academic gap in the remote classroom environment and providing in-person emotional, social, academic, and mental support when possible.

In light of the Pandemic, our school has implemented the following steps to improve our status:

1. Continued revision of the School Improvement Plan with assistance from the district's authorizer: Grand Valley State University (GVSU).
2. Increased the use of virtual classrooms and extended office hours to meet the schedule of working students.
3. Utilized support from Grand Valley States University Learning Network to enhance the school improvement initiatives.
4. Provide mentoring service to address academic, attendance, behavior, and social needs.
5. Continued implementation of a 23a program to help our most challenged students complete an education.

**Student Enrollment**

Students who reside in Michigan may enroll in the school as provided by law. Because space is limited, each student must enroll each year. Preferences will be given to students currently enrolled and to siblings of enrolled students. When maximum enrollment for a grade has been reached, applications shall be placed on a waiting list and admitted on the basis of a lottery system. CHAD- East Site did not need to hold a lottery for the 2020-21 school year.

**School Improvement Plan**

Covenant House Academy Detroit, East, Site is in the 9th year of the School Improvement Plan and will continue to modify the plan as needed for the upcoming school year.

We are currently reviewing the School improvement plan to develop academic performance and goals in coordination with the District improvement plan and goals. Using the Continuous Improvement Process we expect to revamp the plan for next year.

**School Description**

Our school provides at-risk youth and high school dropouts the opportunity to earn high school diplomas, improve their life skills, and continue on to higher education or post secondary employment training. Because we are affiliated with a homeless shelter, Covenant House Academies are the only schools allowed to grant a high school diploma up to the age of 22. Our caring staff works toward preventing poverty, underachievement, and homelessness for our students, while offering them hope, encouragement, and a better chance for future success. We offer small class sizes and on-line software programs that allow students to catch up and return back to their neighborhood school on track for graduation.

**Curriculum**

The Covenant House Academies uses Edmentum, a web based online curriculum. The online courses are designed to enhance core content coverage and offer flexible implementation options. Whether students are at grade level, falling behind, or advanced the courses are customizable to the need of the student. The curriculum can be found on our website at<https://www.covenanthouseacademy.org/s/2020-2021-Student-Handbook-DescriptionFINAL.docx>. Covenant House East follows the Michigan Merit Curriculum graduation requirements while imparting skills through instruction that include real world challenges, cross content integration, relevancy to student lives and transfer of knowledge. As students complete each required course, they are enrolled in a new course required and leading to graduation.

**Student Achievement**

We are continually working to improve our students’ academic skills in all core subject areas. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff, and our community in this effort. Covenant House Academy uses both qualitative, formative and quantitative assessments given at the building and State level. Students are assessed in all subject areas, and informally with short learning checkpoints, projects, and self-assessments.

For the 2018-19 school year our data had a slight increase in Workeys scores from fall to spring, 2018-18 Spring Reading 74.14, Spring Graphs score 73.84 and Spring Math 73.07. There was no State testing due to the Pandemic which prohibits the school from sharing spring 2020 test data. Historic, formative, and content specific assessments are being used to develop strategies in reading, writing and math instruction. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff, and our community in this effort. The WorkKeys assessment will be administered two times per year to all students.

**Parental Partnership**

We strongly encourage parental involvement in our school. At the beginning of each year, we hold an open house in which we invite all parents and guardians to visit and tour our school to see “a day in the life” of a student at Covenant House Academy Detroit,East Site. We periodically hold parent meetings as well as parent/teacher conferences. Due to the Pandemic, this is the first year we are scheduled to have vitual Parent meetings and conferences. With the goal of establishing the school as a resource center for parents/guardians and the community, we will continue initiatives to raise the level of parent/guardian involvement.

**Parent/Guardian – Conferences:**

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| SchoolYear | #% Students Represented at Conference |
| 2018-19 | 7 (7.5%) |
| 2019-20 | Not held due to Pandemic |

**Dual Enrollment**

Due to the Pandemic, our attempt to provide dual enrollment opportunities have been placed on hold.

**Summary**

The staff of Covenant House Academy Detroit, East Site is committed to providing a quality educational experience for our students. Over the past year, we have developed a school culture focused on learning. All of our students have had difficulty in some form or another in the traditional school setting, and we strive to make them successful in our school. We are looking forward to a productive year where we will see the results of our careful planning. Students will leave our school prepared for the next stage in their lives.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel King

Principal

Covenant House Academy Detroit, East