



Jim VanBergen  
Administrator

Mia Clark  
Retention Manager

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May 30, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-2017 educational progress for Muskegon Covenant Academy (MCA). 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 our school administrator, Jim VanBergen, for assistance. Mr. VanBergen can be reached at (231)720-3100.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site; [www.m covenantacademy.org](http://www.m covenantacademy.org), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school. The following link; <https://goo.gl/tpyGqS>, will take you directly to the MISchoolData website to view MCA's "Combined Report".

For the 2016-17 school year, schools were identified using new 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 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. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Muskegon Covenant Academy is in its fourth year of operation. As of May 30, 2018, MCA has not been given one of the above labels. Muskegon Covenant Academy is an alternative school offering a blended instruction curriculum model. Our students use an online curriculum provider, Edgenuity, and highly-qualified content area teachers to deliver the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) to our students. The courses are aligned with the MMC and the Common Core Curriculum. Anyone who wishes to access a copy of our core curriculum may do so at the school's main office.

Our students, who are 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, are assessed using the SAT, PSAT, TABE, WorkKeys, and M-Step assessments. Because 2014-2015 was our first year of

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operation, not all assessment results are available for all our students. As those test results become available, we will make decisions to modify our curriculum to improve student achievement.

All public schools and public school academies face certain challenges during this time of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Muskegon Covenant Academy is no different. MCA's primary challenges include working with "at-risk" and "high-risk" students, lack of support for education in the family, student homelessness, and poor attendance rates. In addition, MCA currently has low numbers in various groupings that make it difficult to draw conclusions as to the success of our educational program.

Muskegon Covenant Academy is meeting the following challenges as it transitions into its fourth year of operation:

1. Developing a consistent percentage of students in attendance on a daily basis. Our goal is to have 66% of our students in attendance each school day.
2. Improvement of grade-level reading scores throughout our student population.
3. Improvement of career readiness scores on the WorkKeys© Assessment to at least the "Silver" level.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Students who want to enroll in our school may do so throughout the school year. We have a rolling enrollment process that is open until the school is at capacity. The enrollment process involves completing the required application packet and an orientation with the prospective student as well as the parent or guardian. During this process, future enrollees learn about the policies and procedures of the school and ensure all paperwork is complete.
2. Muskegon Covenant Academy is in its first year of developing the School Improvement Plan and will continue to modify the plan as needed for the upcoming school year.

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3. Muskegon Covenant Academy school provides youth 16-22 years that are at-risk (high school dropouts, homeless youth, those living in poverty, teen parents and expectant parents, and those that have been disenfranchised) the opportunity to earn high school diplomas, improve their life skills, and continue on to higher education or post-secondary employment training. Our school works to break down barriers so that students up to the age of 22 can have the opportunity to achieve their high school diploma. Because we offer a blended learning program and flexible, year-round classes, we are able to provide an individualized education for each of our students that allow them to work at their own pace. Our caring staff works toward preventing poverty, underachievement, and homelessness in our students, while offering them hope, encouragement, and a better chance for future success.
  4. Muskegon Covenant Academy is implementing the Common Core Standards. A copy of the latest School Improvement Plan and curriculum is available electronically by visiting the following website: [www.mcoventacademy.org](http://www.mcoventacademy.org) or you may review a copy in the administration office at MCA.
  5. Since the opening of MCA in August of 2014, our students have participated in state mandated testing. However, the low number of students actually completing the battery of testing does not allow for aggregate achievement results for our students. In general, for achievement results to be compiled there must be a cohort larger than ten students. During MCA's first three years of operation the number of students tested was less than ten.

We strongly encourage parental involvement in our school. We offer these specific opportunities for parents/guardians or significant adult mentors to participate in their student's educational program:

1. Approximately 30% of our students are represented in regular communication with their parents.
2. MCA hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual parent "Back to School" event in August 2017. This event featured backpack and school supply giveaways, information from various community agencies, food, and games. This event reached nearly 60% of our students and their families.

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3. Our Title I program offers a parent informational meeting to parents who students qualify for Title I services in reading and mathematics.

Another measure of the success of our student's success is the number of graduates that pursue post-secondary education following graduation. In the 2016-2017 school year, 9 of 25 graduates (36%) enrolled in some form of post-secondary education including community college, vocational training, or the military. Currently, MCA does not offer any college equivalent courses (AP/IB) to its students.

In closing, I am proud of the accomplishments of our students and the hard work of our staff to further the educational goals of our high needs student population. As we get to know our students and their personal backgrounds, we are re-energized to provide the resources needed for them to be successful and contributing citizens of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim VanBergen", is placed over a light gray rectangular background.

Jim VanBergen, Administrator  
Muskegon Covenant Academy

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