



Education- Connection- Liberation

**KALAMAZOO RESA**  
INSPIRING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

**2023-24**

## **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2023-24 educational progress for the KRESA Youth Center School and Intensive Learning Center (YCS/ILC). 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 Laura Draper, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website [KRESA Juvenile Home School Annual Education Report](#), or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

### **Our Vision**

*100% of students will create and achieve three personalized "stretch" goals each trimester- 1 academic, 1 social-emotional, and 1 personal.*

### **Our Mission**

*We exist to provide a safe place for students to develop independence, discover their potential, and break cycles to transform their lives.*

For the 2024-25 school year, schools were identified based on previous years' performance using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that had at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2023-24. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2021-22. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state, had a graduation rate at or below 67%, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. 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.

## **Key Challenges**

The Youth Center School serves adjudicated youth in grades 5-11. Most of our students do not attend the full school year. The average stay at Youth Center School for a student is 41 days. Due to this reason, students do not have enough instructional time in our program to meet the gains necessary to be proficient on the state assessments. Furthermore, because of the low number of enrolled days, YCS only awards credit for those students who meet an attendance threshold of at least 80% of a trimester and/or demonstrated proficiency in coursework. Lastly, JHS teachers teach to the core curriculum with an intense focus on finding ways to intervene and provide the level of support the students need to be able to gain skills in the areas of math, reading, writing, and social emotional learning.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

## **Key Initiatives**

Youth Center School has developed a school improvement plan that addresses the core areas of math and reading, as well as social emotional learning supports. Staff of YCS have been in continuous training on effective instructional practices, finding positive ways to provide feedback to students, and given explicit instruction in the five domains of social emotional learning. During the 23-24 school year, YCS/ILC has continued to work on these key initiatives from our School Improvement plan. Some of these initiatives are the use of social emotional learning, strategic progress monitoring, trauma-informed practices, and the development of multi-tiered systems of supports. State law requires that we also report additional information.

## **PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL**

The YCS/ILC works with Kalamazoo County local school districts to provide educational programming for adjudicated youth in grades 5-12. YCS/ILC works with all nine local school districts to transition students back into their local school districts in order to ensure success in that environment. Students are assigned through either a petition signed by judge/referee or court order. Youth Center School administration does not assign students to the program. Once admitted, Youth Center School central office staff enrolls the students into school.

## **THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

YCS/ILC developed a school improvement plan based on curricular content areas, Social Emotional Learning, and on positive behavior supports. Our 3-5 year plan is moving forward and in a direction that allows for positive student outcomes and transition back into their local school districts. The following information is on the progress made during the 23-24 school year and our goals for the upcoming school year to address our needs and gaps in student learning.

**Accomplishments** – Staff continue to be trained in research- based practices that drive our daily instruction. Technology continues to enhance teaching and instruction. YCS/ILC meets by

department and as a school team to use our Students of Concern protocol to provide multi-tiered systems of support. Our entire staff is currently participating in year 3 of a 3-year implementation plan development series around Equity and adult-first SEL, using the tenets of *Conscious Discipline* to guide our practices. Our program is able to screen and intervene more appropriately in order to close the academic gaps in reading and math identified in our students.

**Upcoming Year** – Through KRESA's continued recommendation, we plan to continue to focus our improvement plan around three core skills built specifically for YCS/ILC. Our three core skills will focus on Social Emotional Learning; continuing our close monitoring of reading and math intervention, growth, and achievement; and increased community engagement. As a staff, we will focus on these three core skills while looking through the lens of a trauma-responsive school and our commitment to an Anti-Bias Anti-Racist education.

## **School Description**

YCS/ILC serves students in Kalamazoo County who are eligible to receive educational programming and services by signed petition/court order and who are between the ages of 11-18. Students may also be served under any special education category as all Youth Center School teachers hold special education endorsements and specialize in the area of Emotional Impairments. Teachers are highly qualified in their secondary subject areas. YCS staff work with local school districts and the families of each resident to provide core curriculum, special education services, and/or unique alternative programming to adjudicated youth in Kalamazoo County.

## **THE CORE CURRICULUM**

YCS/ILC offers instruction in all core curriculum areas. During the 23-24 school year, other courses such as health, physical education, speech, current events, computer applications, and work-based learning were offered. Students in Youth Center School have the opportunity to earn high school credit that can be transferred back to their local school district. The curriculum taught at Youth Center School aligns with the Michigan Common Core State Standards and with the curriculum requirements of the nine local school districts in Kalamazoo County.

Student Achievement Data For the 23-24 school years- student subgroups who were assessed at Youth Center School did not provide a large enough sample on the M-STEP, MI Access, and/or SAT to be able to disaggregate the data to make informed educational decisions based solely on state assessment information. We utilize internal systems to capture baseline data through NWEA, and progress monitor using easy CBMs.

## **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

In a typical school year, our Parents have two opportunities to physically attend Parent-Teacher Conferences. Due to COVID-restrictions in Juvenile Facilities like ours, parents have not been able to attend in-person parent teacher conferences in YCS, but are able to do so in ILC. Ten families attended our conference events in ILC. Additionally, our staff has increased our level of Family Engagement through phone calls, Zoom meetings, texts, emails, our PBIS platform Kickboard, social media, and the Parent Portal of PowerSchool to help keep parents up-to-date on their student's performance. Our staff encourages parents, guardians, and community members to be stakeholders and support the students at

YCS/ILC by volunteering, as well as attending special performances, events, and conferences.

The staff at the Youth Center School/ Intensive Learning Center looks forward to serving the youth of Kalamazoo County and providing a quality educational program to meet their needs both academically and socially. We continue to strive to be a thoughtful organization focused on Continuous Improvement to enhance the lives of our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Draper". The ink is black and the signature is fluid and elegant.

Laura Draper  
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