

**Cassopolis Public Schools
Alternative Education
725 Center St.
Cassopolis Michigan 49031
269-445-0536**

School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

May 7, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for Cassopolis Alternative Education. 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 Jeff Wernette at (269)445-0536 for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site

<https://www.mischooldata.org/EssaDashboard/EssaDashboardSchoolOverview.aspx?LocationId=S,6207,994,93&LocationCode=07865>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

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.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Cassopolis Alternative Education provides education to students who have not been successful in the traditional environment. It provides one-on-one assistance, using certified staff and curriculum that matches the needs of the students. We have recently added Edmentum/Platoweb online coursework as another way of providing curriculum that matches state requirements and better prepares our students for standardized testing. Students in our program complete all state required testing, as well as pre-and post-testing that is administered using the TABE. In addition to classroom instruction a certified teacher provides education to incarcerated alternative students. Students work in the classroom, online, or at home but must report and complete work on a weekly basis. All testing, except mastery tests as part of a lesson, is done in the classroom.

Our biggest challenge is regular attendance, consistent completion of quality work, and keeping students motivated to move forward until graduation. Many students who enroll have more than twenty classes to complete prior to graduation.

State law requires that we also report additional information:

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Students who are behind on credits at our high school are assigned to our program. Any other student can voluntarily enroll. There are no requirements for enrollment.

2. THE STATUS OF THE 3-5 YEAR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Our school improvement plan is focused on improving attendance, math, and language arts skills. Low reading and math scores have resulted in poor academic accomplishment for most of our students. For this reason we provide individualized assistance and plan to include a literacy specialist in our staff. Using Edmentum online course-work allows us to assign courses at a TABE-determined reading and math levels.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

There are no specialized schools in our program.

4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

Our curriculum follows the standards outlined in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. We also require two additional CTE credits. A copy of our course offerings is available online at http://www.cassopolis.k12.mi.us/schools/squires_education_center/adult__alternative_education.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

2015-2016

Six students took the SAT test in 2015-16. Our average SAT score was 840. One of the two students who took the M-Step achieved proficiency

2016-2017

There is no data available for 2016-2017 because of our small sample size.

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

We do not have parent-teacher conferences. Parents are welcome to visit. Student under eighteen are required to have a parent's signature to enroll.

We are continually striving to improve our program and meet the needs of our students. Edmentum has great benefits, including pretesting to assess prior knowledge and using it to modify course topics. More students have access to technology than ever before. Online classes are a great way for students to acquire additional skills they will need to succeed in the future. For some it is a pathway to success; for others it is an opportunity to grow. This letter is just an overview of our program. Please visit our program at any time for a more comprehensive picture.

Sincerely,

Jeff Wernette