

January 12, 2022

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2021-22 educational progress for the Virtual Learning Academy of St. Clair County. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws. Our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please contact Josh Everitt, Virtual Learning Academy Principal, for help if you need assistance.

The District/School AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting [Virtual Learning Academy – MI School Data](#) or you may review a copy in the main office at VLA. This will also be communicated to parents directly via the VLA school app.

These reports contain the following information:

### **Student Assessment Data**

This report section includes the following four assessments: M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress), MI-Access (Alternate Assessment), and College Board SAT. This report section presents assessment information for English language arts and mathematics for grades 3 to 8 and 11, and MI-Access science for grades 4, 7, and 11, compared to state averages for all students as well as subgroups of students. The report helps users to understand achievement performance within grades and schools, and to make comparisons to district, state, and national achievement benchmarks.

### **Accountability – Detail Data and Status**

This report section includes assessment proficiency and participation rates, graduation or attendance rates, as well as accountability index values showing school performance on a 0-100 scale. *\*WAIVED - No 2020-2021 accountability data will be included this year, with the exception of Graduation Rates.*

### **Educator Qualification Data**

This report section identifies the number and percentage of inexperienced teachers, principals, and other school leaders. This report section reports teachers who are teaching with emergency or provisional credentials and includes teachers who are not teaching in the subject or field for which they are certified.

### **NAEP Data (National Assessment of Educational Progress)**

This section provides state results of the national assessment in mathematics and reading every other year in grades 4 and 8.

### **Civil Rights Data**

This section provides information on school quality, climate and safety.

Review the table below listing our school. For the 2020-21 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 has at least one underperforming student subgroup in 2018-2019. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state in 2017-2018. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2016-2017. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given.

School Name	Status Label	Key Initiative to Accelerate Achievement
Virtual Learning Academy of St. Clair County	No Label	Improve student engagement.

### General Information

The Virtual Learning Academy of St. Clair County is a public school academy (PSA) chartered through St. Clair County RESA. We serve students in grades 9-12 and up to the age of 22. Our goal is to provide students educational and career opportunities, services and support through the use of innovative and blended online tools, resources and staff. We strive to...

- Provide a structured and safe learning environment for students working in the building.
- Provide free breakfast and lunch options to all students working in the building.
- Provide flexibility, guidance and support through individualized learning and attendance plans to help students overcome barriers and find academic and life success while earning their high school diploma.
- Provide targeted mathematics and reading support and tutoring to minimize achievement gaps.
- Provide career exploration, experience and exposure that promotes 21st century learning skills and helps students find a career path.
- Provide extended day and year support to all students.
- Give students a chance to participate in an online high school credit recovery opportunity that may allow for re-entry to their regular high school.

Virtual Learning Academy students are required to meet a rigorous academic curriculum as set by both the State of Michigan and our school board. Virtual Learning Academy provides a strong core

curriculum along with research-based intervention strategies for both remediation and enrichment intentions to support all students in finding success.

Eligible students are those who are not regularly attending school for a variety of reasons including students who have dropped-out, been expelled, or students who are exiting court-placed programs, along with students referred to the program from traditional schools or students just seeking an alternative learning option.

### **Key Challenges**

Key challenges for the school include lack of student engagement, only exacerbated with the COVID-19 pandemic. We can see this in the decreasing number of courses being completed and students graduating, as well as in the low percentage of students attending, logging into their courses and making adequate academic progress.

Additional challenges include chronic absenteeism, lack of parental support, lack of consistent transportation, lack of consistent living arrangements (homelessness), low math and reading abilities, mental health issues and students facing other barriers to success.

### **Initiatives**

Students are given increased flexibility to work in their courses at their own pace and in their own space through individualized learning and attendance plans. Students have access to state-certified teachers who are available in the school building Monday through Friday from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. as well as after hours at night and on the weekends through our school chat site from 6:00p.m. to 9:00p.m. Through our school chat and other communications efforts including Zoom and Google Meet, teacher mentors are able to work one-on-one with students both in the building and those working from home, to help students overcome barriers to success and guide them toward high school graduation.

All students spend time with VLA's Career Advisor who provides students with college and career experiences and exposure and helps students assess personal interests and skills and then explore potential career paths. All students have a post-high school college or career plan in place before graduating.

Virtual Learning Academy uses the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) assessment to determine student's math and reading abilities upon enrollment in the program. For students with low grade level knowledge and skills at entry, targeted supplemental instruction and tutoring is provided to bridge gaps and to get students at high school grade level. Our testing efforts were negatively impacted as a result of COVID-19.

We strive to provide all students a safe and healthy learning environment. We have created a student lounge where students can enjoy free breakfast and lunch daily and spend some social time.

Bus tickets are provided to students if needed to remove transportation barriers.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

## 1. Process for Assigning Pupils to the School

Virtual Learning Academy has year-round open enrollment for eligible students in St. Clair County and contiguous counties. Students may apply to enroll via VLA's website ([sccvla.org](http://sccvla.org)), by calling the main office at (810) 364-1362 or by stopping into the building at 1520 Michigan Road, Port Huron, MI. 48060. Please see the paragraph above for further information on eligible students.

## 2. The Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

Virtual Learning Academy is fully accredited by Michigan Department of Education and engages in a continuous cycle of school improvement; conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and analyzing achievement trends, identifying areas of need along with designing and implementing strategies to address those needs. Virtual Learning Academy School Improvement Plan now through MICIP (Michigan Integrated Continuous Improvement Process) may be viewed in its entirety at: [School Improvement Plan](#). It may also be obtained by contacting the Virtual Learning Academy front office.

### **Mission Statement:**

Our mission is to empower and support students to become successful and career-ready.

We do this using individualized learning plans, which allows students to work at their own pace and in their own space with time spent working remotely and/or in the VLA building. Students receive one-on-one mentoring and tutoring from a compassionate team of state-certified educators.

### **2019-2022 School Improvement Goals:**

- College & Career Readiness
- Math Proficiency
- Reading Proficiency
- MMC Instruction & Credits Earned

### **2020-2022 School Improvement Goals:**

- Student Engagement
  - Social/Emotional Learning
  - Individualized Learning Plans
  - Safe & Healthy Learning Environment
  - Career & College Readiness

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## Progress towards goals:

We have a staff professional development day scheduled on April 19, 2022 where we will be taking a deeper look into social/emotional learning - specifically how we can incorporate more of these skills into the daily student learning and education already taking place at VLA. These skills include developing healthy identities, managing emotions, setting and achieving goals, demonstrating empathy, establishing and maintaining supportive relationships and making responsible decisions.

All students have an individualized learning and attendance plan in place that is being monitored by multiple VLA staff. Academic goals are set with students periodically. Targeted intervention and supplemental instruction are provided when determined necessary to bridge academic gaps and ensure students are making adequate progress toward graduation. Academic gaps are determined using the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) which students take minimally two times during their time with VLA.

VLA's student lounge has been created where students can enjoy free breakfast and lunch daily. They also get an opportunity for some social time in the student lounge, and/or participating in the VLA garden and/or playing disc golf. VLA is following all guidelines and recommendations from the CDC and St. Clair County Mental Health Department as pertaining to COVID-19 to ensure all students feel safe when working in the building.

VLA has a full-time Career Advisor who is providing students with college and career experience and exposure as they work to develop a post-high school career plan. All students have the unique opportunity to work through Xello, a career exploration tool, providing invaluable information and resources to assist in student's career planning. Students have support building a resume, completing FAFSA and college applications, determining TIP eligibility and other financial aid, and more.

### 3. A Brief Description of Each Specialized School:

VLA is a public school academy chartered by St. Clair County RESA providing a flexible online learning pathway to academic and career success for students who have dropped out, been expelled from high school, been referred to the program or who are seeking an alternative learning option.

### 4. Core Curriculum

The district's core academic curriculum is provided through Edgenuity for all high school age students in grades 9-12. The district curriculum is standards-based for all students. A standards-based curriculum communicates to students, parents and the community exactly what VLA students are expected to learn. Virtual Learning Academy uses the State of Michigan's Core Curriculum and Common Core State Standards as models when reviewing and developing content areas. This is done by state-certified teacher mentors minimally on an annual basis. A copy of the core curriculum is available for you to review electronically by opening the following link: [VLA Curriculum](#), or may also be obtained by contacting the Virtual Learning Academy front office.

## 5. The Aggregate Student Achievement Results for any Local Competency Tests or Nationally Normed Achievement Test

The academic progress of students in high school is evaluated by district state assessments. Students take either the PSAT or SAT test 9th, 10th, and 11th grade years. To view the report showing specific scores and achievement trends, please refer to [Virtual Learning Academy - MI School Data](#) or you may obtain this information by contacting the Virtual Learning Academy front office.

## 6. Parent-Teacher Conference Rate:

- 2018-2019 – 40%
- 2019-2020 – Fall conferences were not held as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. We had a 12% attendance rate for Spring conferences (held in building).
- 2020-2021 – Fall conferences were not held as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Spring conferences were offered and held remotely via phone call, Zoom or Google Meet. We had around a 25% attendance rate.
- 2021-2022 – 25%

## 7. For High Schools Only, also Report on the Following:

- Post-Secondary Enrollment (Dual Enrollment): 2 (1.3%)
- College Equivalent Courses Offered (AP/IB): 0 (none)
- Students Enrolled in College Equivalent Courses (AP/IB): 0 (none)
- Students Receiving a Score Leading to College Credit: 2 (1.3%)

Despite the many challenges we are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Virtual Learning Academy has experienced another successful year in academics. We are very proud of the students, parents, and staff of Virtual Learning Academy and look forward to continued success in the years to come. At the time of this writing, we have had 431 graduates. Virtual Learning Academy will continue to strive for excellence and would love feedback from all stakeholders as we seek to make VLA the best it can be.

Sincerely,



Josh Everitt, Principal  
Virtual Learning Academy of St. Clair County  
1520 Michigan Road, Port Huron, MI. 48060  
[everitt.joshua@sccacademy.org](mailto:everitt.joshua@sccacademy.org)  
(810) 364-1362 or (810) 455-4480