

Veritas Alternative Education Program

February 16, 2025

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 Veritas. 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 Katy Jain for assistance.

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

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 was identified as a school that has not been given one of these labels. Our school is identified as a Universal Support school.

Veritas is an alternative education program and as such, we face a number of challenges, such as meeting the required 95% graduation rate, improving proficiency rates across all subject areas, and addressing low attendance rates. Students typically enrolled in the program are often credit-deficient, having experienced poor attendance at their previous schools or exhibiting behaviors that have hindered their academic progress. Some students require a smaller learning environment to succeed. While there are various reasons students come to Veritas, many face significant learning gaps that need to be addressed. Our main goal is to help students close these gaps, reduce behaviors that impede learning, and improve daily attendance.

To address the achievement gap and enhance student proficiency in all subjects, we continue to focus on project based learning opportunities, hands on learning activities, small group instruction, tutoring, and credit recovery programs. All students in the program are offered free tutoring and credit recovery opportunities. Class sizes are smaller with around 25 students per class. Students also have access to programs like Edgenuity, IXL, Newsela, No Red Ink, and Khan Academy for remediation and intervention. Staff regularly reviews NWEA testing data to adjust instruction and help students meet their academic goals.

To improve attendance rates, our Alternative Education specialist monitors student attendance and reaches out to parents when concerns arise. We provide rewards and special activities as incentives for students with good attendance or those who have shown improvement. Additionally, we hold Student Success meetings with parents to discuss and address attendance or academic achievement issues.

Every year, Veritas requests a special waiver that enables us to modify our school schedule and incorporate a free credit recovery program on Fridays. This provides students with dedicated time during the week to focus on recovering credits. The program was created to support students in making progress toward graduation. Additionally, Veritas offers seven class periods in a standard school day, allowing students to earn an extra half credit compared to schools with a six-hour schedule. These initiatives are designed to assist students who need to recover credits, ultimately aiming to boost our graduation rate.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Veritas uses an application and interview process to enroll students in the program. The interview allows students, parents, and administrators to all meet and discuss the expectations of the program. Students may also be referred to the program by administrators from other schools in the district. All students, whether they have applied or been referred, must go through the interview process to make sure Veritas is an appropriate placement for the student.

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

Our continuous improvement plan focuses on improving proficiency in math and reading. We have goals aligned to the district goals and work with district administration in the development of these goals. We are currently in the implementation stage of our plan.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Veritas is an alternative education program for students who need a nontraditional educational setting. The program offers credit recovery and small class sizes to help students recover credits and build their skills. Redford Union Schools also Redford Union Schools offers a Day Treatment High School Program for students with emotional impairments.

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 All teaching staff follow the curriculum model provided by the State of Michigan and the Common Core State Standards. A copy of this curriculum can be accessed online at http://www.michigan.gov/mde. In addition, a copy of the curriculum can be reviewed at the school office. Curriculum and course documents for courses that are offered through the online platform, Edgenuity, are also available through that portal and can be reviewed at the school office.

- 5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS For state level testing data, please refer to Please refer to the following website, www.mischooldata.org, to view the combined data report for Veritas. A copy of this report is also available on our school's website under the Annual Education Report tab.
- 6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Veritas holds parent-teacher conferences twice per year both in person and virtually. We also offer to schedule individual conferences for those parents who cannot make the prearranged times. Below are the percentages of students represented in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

	Fall Conferences	Spring Conferences
2022-2023	29%	24%
2023-2024	27%	21%

- 7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:
 - a. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT) 0
 - b. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB) 0
 - c. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB) 0
 - d. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT. 0

As we move forward this school year, the staff and administration are excited to work with our students to help them reach their educational goals. While we are proud of the progress already made, we remain committed to ongoing improvement. We understand the value of collaboration among the staff, students, and community, and we deeply appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely,

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