



LIGHTHOUSE ACADEMY

12/29/2025

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER), which provides key information on the 2024-25 educational progress for Lighthouse Academy – The Pier. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about accountability, student assessment, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Matthew Milanowski, Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website: <https://bit.ly/48XnPSU>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2025-26 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 group in 2024-25. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that had at least one student group 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%, failed to exit CSI status in 2024-25, or failed to exit ATS status in 2021-22. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no status label is given.

Our school was not identified for: 'Targeted Support and Improvement', 'Additional Targeted Support', 'Comprehensive Support and Improvement' school.

Lighthouse Academy - The Pier (LAP) has faced multiple challenges over the school year as LAP continues to serve inmates of the Kent County Correctional Facility (KCCF) as the sole provider of high school completion schooling. Enrolled students with the LAP not only bring the trauma of being an inmate, but many also come with heavy trauma from their past. The trauma brought to the classroom by students often creates barriers in learning and progress made towards earning a diploma. Along with this, LAP continues to struggle with consistent attendance as

the inmates at the KCCF are not required to attend and the school is limited in how we can encourage students to attend other than for the simple reason to receive an education. While the average length of stay at the Pier facility has increased in length in recent years, students rarely can continue education upon leaving the program due to age restrictions, transportation issues, and other demands that come with being an adult. Along with recent legislative reform to the Juvenile Justice system, a change in demographics and the severity of charges individuals are held in the KCCF have resulted in a steep decline in enrollment numbers. The key initiatives that are being undertaken at LAP that would bridge some of these gaps and help accelerate student achievement and close gaps would be the continued implementation and improvement of the MTSS/PBIS throughout the facility although this is limited due to program restrictions. The use of this program will assist with a student's level of comfort and effort put into the school as they are not accustomed to success in the educational setting. LAP also monitors and marks student objectives in comparison to state standards in regard to monitoring student progress in the school due to the short average of stay with the facility. Best practices are continually looked into as to how to make the greatest impact in the short amount of time LAP has to work with the students.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Our enrollment comes from a referral process of the Kent County Correctional Facility (KCCF). All students of The Pier must be inmates that reside within the KCCF and meet the enrollment requirements of being under the age of 22 years old, not have earned a diploma (or its equivalent), and be housed in areas accessible by LAP staff and teachers.
2. The school follows the district's Continuous Improve Plan (MICIP), which has new goals starting during the 2025-2026 school year. Our previous plan goals were successful in setting up and monitoring both academic MTSS and PBIS in efforts to improve whole-student outcomes. This includes providing students with the supports they need to improve their math and reading skills, as well as career planning and soft skills. MICIP goals that are beginning this year will expand on these efforts of improvement.
3. The school is located and operates within the Kent County Correctional Facility (KCCF), which houses up to 1,500 inmates across all security levels in the custody of the Sheriff. Inmates that are housed in medium, non-assaultive security units and lower security level units have access to educational programming provided by Lighthouse Academy – The Pier (LAP). Inmates in that population have to a) be under the age of 22 years old, b) not have earned a diploma, or its equivalent (i.e., GED) to be eligible for enrollment in LAP. The school provides part-time education to two housing units, with the juvenile unit attending school in the morning and an adult

general population unit attending in the afternoon. Inmates that meet the previously mentioned eligibility for educational programming that are not already housed in the adult general population unit, can request to be moved to the housing unit where the programming is offered. Once enrolled, LAP staff and teachers focus on meeting each student where they are at both in ability and progress made in school, implementing a plan that is best suited to meet the student's needs and support them in achieving their goals. This is further supported by the use of Standards-Based Grading and credit recovery practices, that help to accelerate a student's learning by focusing on learning and the amount of work or time completed. Special Education is provided for qualifying individuals up to the age of 22 years old, including individuals that would otherwise not be eligible due to their security level.

4. Lighthouse Academy – The Pier (LAP) follows the same core curriculum established by the Lighthouse Academy district and meets Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for high school graduation. This can be found on the district website, or can be provided upon request.
5. Lighthouse – The Pier (LAP) uses standardized testing for students to determine where they are scoring in comparison to the state average. Using the data from the PSAT/SAT, MSTEP, and the WIN assessment (replacing the ACT WorkKeys Assessment starting during the 2025-2026 school year), as well as the NWEA Map tests for students who are transferring from or returning to a Lighthouse Academy school. In all categories the LAP students fall below the state average. The data is periodically reviewed in order to make necessary changes to the program in order to improve student achievement.
6. Parent-teacher conferences are held when requested by a parent/guardian, or community partner with the permission of the student, if they are 18 years of age or older. The majority of students enrolled with Lighthouse Academy – The Pier have reached the age of majority and are able to meet about grades and discuss issues without parents being present. Our school is in constant contact with court workers and community partners; therefore, all students participate in a form of parent teacher conferences. In addition, progress reports are sent out to P.O.'s on a normal basis as well as meetings to review individual learning plans which have been specially put together for students.
7. This is not applicable for Lighthouse Academy – The Pier due to the restrictive nature of the schools operating setting. Further, AP classes are not offered as all our adult students are behind in credits.

In conclusion, Lighthouse Academy – The Pier (LAP) continues to provide access to academics for individuals housed in the Kent County Correctional Facility (KCCF). LAP's focus continues to support students that need a non-traditional

educational placement, which has shown to lead to students graduating and reaching their goals. The students served by LAP, and the entire Lighthouse Academy district, are truly unique and have the ability to achieve at the highest level when given the opportunity and support needed.

Sincerely,

Matthew Milanowski

Principal of Lighthouse Academy – The Pier