



## 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 - Waalkes. 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/4sBbUSH>, 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 - Waalkes (LAW), in partnership with the 17<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court and the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC), continues to provide youth in detention and residential placement with educational services. This comes with challenges due students coming to class experiencing trauma beyond that of just being in detention or residential placement, which creates barriers to the learning process. The short average length of stay at the JDC has a high impact on the ability of LAW to have students take standardized assessments which would help

with gauging individual academic needs. LAW continues to implement new, best practices, review data, and improve systems in order to bridge some of these gaps and help accelerate student achievement. Lighthouse Leadership continues to analyze data and adjust programing as needed, within budgeting cost, to focus on student achievement. Finally, the school continues to look at the objectives in comparison to state standards in regards to monitoring student progress in the school due to the short average stay with the facility.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Lighthouse Academy – Waalkes (LAW) enrollment comes from referrals made by the Kent County Juvenile Court. Students must reside at the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and meet enrollment requirements.
2. Lighthouse Academy – Waalkes (LAW) follows the Continuous Improvement Plan (MICIP) developed by the district, which focuses on the whole student through implementing MTSS for academics and behaviors (PBIS), trauma-informed centered teaching, and career and job skills training.
3. Lighthouse Academy – Waalkes (LAW) is a school that operates within the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). The JDC is a secure residential facility designed to provide pre and post disposition, short-term care, and custody for juveniles who cannot be placed in a less restrictive setting. LAW provides free appropriate public education to youth in custody, which is a requirement of the JDC. LAW is focused on supporting students in building skills aligned to short-term learning objectives and accelerated credit recovery in core content area courses. Special education is also provided by LAW for all students who qualify for an IEP.
4. Lighthouse Academy – Waalkes uses the Lighthouse Academy curriculum, which meets the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements for graduation. This curriculum is available on the school website, or by request made to the school.
5. Lighthouse Academy – Waalkes (LAW) 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 WorkKeys tests as well as the NWEA Map tests for students who are coming from or returning to a Lighthouse site. In all categories the LAW 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. We hold parent teacher conferences at parent request or community partner request. Our school is in constant contact with case workers and court workers; 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 clients.

7. Lighthouse Academy - Waalkes (LAW) students reside in a locked facility and thus are not normally able to be dually enrolled. If a student is with Lighthouse for 2 or more years, they are eligible for dual enrollment. LAW is a credit recovery institution and does not offer college credit for its high school classes, we also do not offer AP courses as our 100% of our students are behind in their current coursework

In conclusion, Lighthouse Academy – Waalkes (LAW) continues to expand and serve more youth each year. The LAW programming focus continues to highlight students that need a non-traditional educational placement. We find that our students who choose to stay with one of the Lighthouse Programs are able to obtain their high school diploma and choose to be productive citizens. The students who Lighthouse Academy serves are truly unique and deserve advocates to come to their aid and provide a quality education. The Lighthouse students are capable and able to achieve at the highest level! Let's continue to work hard to help our students achieve their goals!

Sincerely,

Matthew Milanowski

Principal of Lighthouse Academy - Waalkes