

# DISTRICT LETTERHEAD

**REVISED 2021-22 TEMPLATE  
(Letter Sent on District's Letterhead)**

## **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

(USE THE SCHOOL COVER LETTER AND SCHOOL ANNUAL EDUCATION REPORT FOR  
INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS WITHIN A LEA/ISD/RESA  
AND ANY SINGLE BUILDING SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PSA.)

12/29/2021

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 Lighthouse Academy Waalkes Program. 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 Lucas Yax, Assistant Superintendent, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following website <https://bit.ly/2KVN7YZ> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2021-22 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 2018-19. 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 2017-18. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or had a graduation rate at or below 67% in 2016-17. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Due to the federal waiver on accountability for this school year, no schools were identified.

Lighthouse Waalkes has faced multiple challenges over the school year. Like all other schools, Waalkes has continued to navigate the education process through the challenges that come with COVID 19. Along with the COVID barrier, Waalkes continues to serve students who are with our program short term due to the programming of the facility. The students who are residing in the Waalkes facility also usually come with heavy trauma from their past, which makes for another barrier in regards to breakthroughs in learning. Lighthouse Waalkes also continues to struggle with funding changes year to year due to ever changing enrollment numbers which impacts our ability to meet our variety of student needs. The average length of stay at the Waalkes facility is around 20 school days which has a high impact on our ability to have students take standardized assessments which would help with gauging individual academic needs. The program continues to implement new, best practices, review data, and improve systems at Lighthouse Waalkes in order to bridge

some of these gaps and help accelerate student achievement. Lighthouse Leadership continues to analyze data and adjust programming as needed, within budgeting cost, to focus on student achievement. Finally, Lighthouse 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 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 Lighthouse Waalkes has to work with the students.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. Our enrollment comes from a referral process of Kent County Juvenile Court. Our students must reside at the Waalkes Juvenile Detention Center and meet the enrollment requirements
2. At this time our School Improvement plan remains constant with the past and remains on course with where it has been in the past in regard to Trauma training, Career and Job skills training program development, as well as MTSS/PBIS program development. Our core goals remain the same in regards to focusing on having students improve math and reading scores and gain high school credit by offering a holistic educational experience.
3. Lighthouse Waalkes is a school located in the facility of the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center. The facility is meant to house youth in Kent County in order for them to remain safe and secure when they are unable to do so in society. The school provides full time education for all for the students at the Waalkes facility as school is a requirement and not an option. Lighthouse Waalkes is focused on students meeting objectives which align with state standards as well as puts a serious concentration on credit recovery. Normal Special Ed services are also provided as needed and within the guidelines of meeting the safety rules and regulations of the KCJDC facility.
4. Our core curriculum meets the minimum state requirements for high school graduation. A copy of our courses is offered in our handbook which is given at enrollment or can be requested at the school office. The annual education report is also available through our website or a hard copy is in our school office
5. Lighthouse Waalkes uses standardized testing for students to determine where they are scoring in comparison to the state average. Using the data from the 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 Lighthouse Waalkes 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 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. Waalkes 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 continues to expand and serve more youth each year. The Lighthouse program's 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 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,

Lucas Yax

Assistant Superintendent of Residential and Juvenile Justice School Programs  
Lighthouse Academy Waalkes, Pier, Port, & Wedgwood.