School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-20 educational progress for Lighthouse Connections Academy. 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 Sherrie Buchzeiger for help if you need assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site DISTRICT'S COMBINED REPORT, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2018-19 school year, schools were identified 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. 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. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given. Our school has not been given one of these labels.

Lighthouse Connections Academy uses universal screeners to identify the students that need additional support to meet grade level targets. LCA uses LEAP, Scantron, and DIBELS assessments three times per year to monitor progress. Using both formative and summative assessment data, students are placed in a tiered system of support for target instruction. Students that are not making adequate progress are given small group instruction, provided additional tutoring opportunities, and placed in web-based instructional support programs such as Reading Eggs, US Test Prep, Math Whizz, and Study Island.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING PUPILS TO THE SCHOOL

Enrollment Cap and Lottery

Open enrollment begins in March. If, after accounting for returning students and siblings of returning students, the number of new student applications exceeds the number of open enrollment slots, a lottery will be held each year in April. The lottery will be held at the school office and will be open to the public. If a lottery is necessary, selected students must provide Lighthouse Connections Academy with their academic documentation for course placement by June 30 or forfeit their space to another student on the waitlist. Students not selected in the lottery or who miss the open enrollment period will be placed on a wait list on a first-come, first-serve basis based on the date on which they complete the enrollment paperwork and return it to the school. Siblings of enrolled students will have wait list priority and will be released first if space becomes available in their grade. These criteria have been approved by the school's authorizer, Oxford Community Schools, and are reflected in the current school policies.

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

A copy of the school improvement plan is available at Lighthouse Connections Academy. The Lighthouse Connections Academy School Improvement Plan is on track, meeting all requirements for establishing goals and monitoring progress.

3. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH SPECIALIZED SCHOOL

Lighthouse Connections Academy (LCA) is a free online public school, also known as a cyber charter school, serving students in grades K–12 throughout Michigan. The school, which opened for the 2018-19 school year, is authorized by Oxford Community Schools. LCA gives students the flexibility to learn at home with a curriculum that meets rigorous state education standards. At LCA, students, teachers, and Learning Coaches are all partners in the Personalized Performance Learning® (PPL) approach. Together, they develop an instructional plan tailored to each student's academic abilities. The program and goals are adjusted as needed to ensure the student is learning and growing at LCA. Teachers, students, and Learning Coaches monitor the plan and the student's progress throughout the year, aided by LCA's education management system (EMS) known as Connexus®.

The school's mission is to help each student maximize his or her potential and meet the highest performance standards through a uniquely individualized learning program featuring:

- A challenging, K–12 curriculum developed by leading education experts.
- Instruction from highly qualified and state-certified teachers.
- Support from trained counselors, principals, and administrative staff.

- Dozens of clubs and activities that foster social development and academic growth.
- An involved community of students and their families.

LCA also offers Dual Enrollment, a program that allows eligible students to take a class at a local college or university as part of their regular school day. Students will receive credit from the college as well as LCA. Admission to the program requires meeting additional criteria.
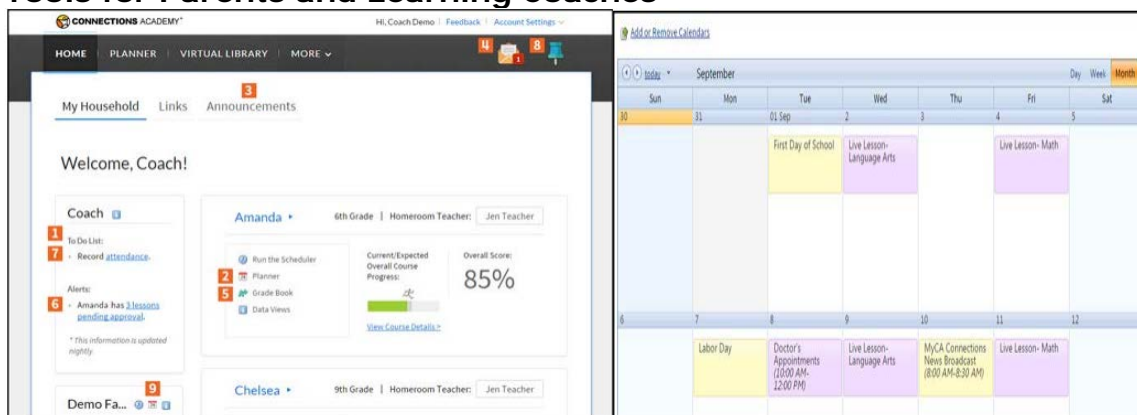
4. IDENTIFY HOW TO ACCESS A COPY OF THE CORE CURRICULUM, A DESCRIPTION OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND AN EXPLANATION OF THE VARIANCES FROM THE STATE'S MODEL

LCA's curriculum and program information can be found in the Connections Academy Program eGuide. The most current version of the Program eGuide is also available by request from the school's website.

LCA is a virtual school, so rather than working in a traditional brick and mortar classroom setting, students, parents/Learning Coaches, and teachers all access curriculum and communicate with one another via Connections Academy's secure education management system known as Connexus.

Connexus is a comprehensive, reliable, and user- friendly online learning systems available. This proprietary system, designed from the ground up to meet the exact requirements of the Connections instructional model and the needs of our students and families, brings the school right to students 24 hours a day from any Internet connection. Connexus is very intuitive and user-friendly. It is also comprehensive, allowing students, parents, and educators to access everything they need from one place.

Tools for Parents and Learning Coaches

From their personalized home page, parents can:

- View all students' schedules, assignments, and lessons.

- Adjust the learning schedule for students in grades K–8.
- Monitor students' progress using the online grade book.
- Record attendance.
- Communicate with teachers and other families via our secure WebMail and message boards.
- Rate the Connections Academy learning experience, at any time.

Tools for Students
The student's individualized home page helps students communicate, organize, and complete and submit assignments. From the homepage, they can:

- View daily and monthly schedules and access lessons.
- Monitor progress through the online grade book (for students in grade 6 and above).
- Communicate with teachers and students through WebMail and message boards.
- Access many online learning resources.
- Participate in clubs and activities.
- View a directory of students.

Tools for Teachers and Administrators
Connexus is used extensively by teachers and administrators. Some of the many tools for teachers allow them to:

- Conduct lessons live over the Internet with LiveLesson® sessions.
- Track student progress.
- Review and grade online assignments and assessments.
- Communicate quickly and effectively with students, parents, and Learning Coaches.
- Keep track of student and family interactions.
- Modify learning to meet students' needs

Because much of the learning and record-keeping is done online through Connexus, school administrators can monitor the effectiveness of instruction and assure students are making progress, every day.

5. THE AGGREGATE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT RESULTS FOR ANY LOCAL COMPETENCY TESTS OR NATIONALLY NORMED ACHIEVEMENT TESTS

During 2019-20, reading growth was assessed for students in grades 2 – 8 using the Longitudinal Evaluation of Academic Progress (LEAP®) and the Scantron® Performance Series™ (SPS) for students in grades 9-11. Math growth was measured using LEAP for students in grades K-8 and Scantron for students in grade 9-11.

On LEAP, students have displayed growth in performance if they score a minimum of 75% on the posttest assessment and/or if they increase their score from the pretest to the posttest by 10 percentage points.

On SPS, students have displayed growth in performance if they score at a High Average or Above Average on the posttest, maintain Above Average or improve by at least one level of normative scores from pretest to posttest.

The percentage of students achieving growth in each grade as well as across grades is presented. Only students that took both pretest and posttest assessments within the test windows were included in the growth analysis.

2019-20 LEAP Results in Reading

Grade	Average Reading Pretest	Average Reading Posttest	% with Satisfactory Progress
2	67.2%	82.0%	100%
3	58.6%	73.7%	90.9%
4	61.7%	64.9%	55.6%
5	57.7%	60.4%	50.0%
6	53.6%	67.6%	44.4%
7	60.4%	65.4%	83.3%
8	61.5%	56.0%	26.7%

2019-20 Scantron Results in Reading

Grade	% Meeting Standards Reading Pretest	% Meeting Standards on Reading Posttest	% with Satisfactory Progress
9	36.4%	78.6%	87.5%*
10	57.1%	57.9%	63.6%
11	57.8%	54.2%	63.2%

*Includes fewer than 10 students

2019-20 LEAP Results in Math

Grade	Average Math Pretest	Average Math Posttest	% with Satisfactory Progress
K	76.4%	96.1%	100%
1	72.1%	89.1%	100%
2	65.8%	87.4%	100%*
3	49.5%	80.2%	90.9%
4	48.2%	55.0%	45.5%
5	44.5%	60.0%	76.2%
6	39.7%	54.4%	50.0%
7	41.6%	52.6%	75.0%
8	36.1%	52.9%	73.3%

*Includes fewer than 10 students

2019-20 Scantron Results in Math

Grade	Average Math Pretest	Average Math Posttest	% with Satisfactory Progress
9	51.3%	63.6%	71.4%*
10	60.5%	45.8%	42.9%

*Includes fewer than 10 students

6. IDENTIFY THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF STUDENTS REPRESENTED BY PARENTS AT PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

    2018-19: 197 students, or 98.5%
    2019-20: 419 students, or 99.1%

7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS, ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:
    a. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)
        2018-19: 1 student or 23%
        2019-20: 0%

    b. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)
        2018-19: 0 (AP courses were not offered in the 18-19 SY)
        2019-20: 5

    c. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)
        2018-19: 0 (AP courses were not offered in the 18-19 SY)
        2019-20: 2

    d. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT
        2018-19: 0 (AP courses were not offered in the 18-19 SY)
        2019-20: 0 (Students chose not to test)

Lighthouse Connections Academy has an extremely dedicated and well-trained staff, which always puts students first. As a school, we will continue to provide our students with opportunities to pursue their passion and become lifelong learners. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at 248-434-3341.

Sincerely,

Sherrie Buchzeiger
School Leader