

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

Apex Academy

The ESC of Lake Erie West Community Schools Center is a student-centered authorizer of charter schools, advancing quality educational opportunities throughout the state of Ohio. Every year, the ESC of Lake Erie West (ESCLEW) produces an Annual Performance Report for each community school it oversees. The report provides an overview of the school and a summary of its performance in academics, non-academics (fiscal and organizational/operational), and legal compliance over the current contract term. For schools in the first year of a renewal contract, the report also includes a summary for the last year of the previous contract, due to a requirement by the Ohio Department of Education to provide multiple years of performance data. The report also identifies the school's strengths, areas for improvement, and prospects for renewal.

As an Ohio community school sponsor, ESCLEW has a duty to monitor and provide oversight and technical assistance to all sponsored schools which includes an assessment of each sponsored school's academic performance on an annual basis. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ohio ordered the closure of all schools, effective March 17, 2020, and cancelled all in-person academic assessments and the release of report card ratings for the 2019-2020 school year. Largely because of the state-ordered closure and lack of academic data, ESCLEW is unable to fully complete its assessments of the academic performance of its sponsored schools for the 2019-2020 school year.

I. Overview

School Information				
IRN	Contract Term	Contract Start Date	Contract End Date	Grades Served
000560	2 Years	07/01/2018	06/30/2020	K-8
Address	16005 Terrace Rd. East Cleveland, OH 44112			
Contact	Phone: (216) 451-1725		Fax: (216) 274-9364	
Website	https://www.nhaschools.com/schools/Apex-Academy/en			
Leadership	Jennifer Littlefield, Principal			
Governing Authority	Deborah Howell, President; Eric Price, Vice President; Pamela Price, Secretary; Faye Jones, Treasurer; Eva Szabo; and Norman Henderson, Board Members			
Mission Statement	Apex Academy's mission is to create educational opportunities for the students of East Cleveland to exceed in elementary education, high school, college and life by way of a strong commitment to skill and content development.			
Student Demographics			Enrollment	
Gender	%	#	Grade	#
Female	50.7%	218	K	42
Male	49.3%	212	1	55
Race/Ethnicity	%	#	2	45
American Indian/Alaskan Native	NC	NC	3	50
Asian/Pacific Islander	NC	NC	4	55
Black, Non-Hispanic	98.6%	424	5	54
Hispanic	NC	NC	6	39
Multiracial	NC	NC	7	41
White, Non-Hispanic	NC	NC	8	49
Historically Underserved	%	#	9	X
Economically Disadvantaged	98.4%	423	10	
English Learner	NC	NC	11	
Migrant	NC	NC	12	
Students with Disabilities	20.5%	88	Total	

II. Academic Performance

School Grade			
Overall Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	B		N/A
Achievement			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	D		N/A
Performance Index	#/#; %	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	78.6/120; 65.5%	D	Met
Indicators Met	#/#; %	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	2/15; 13.3%	F	Met
Chronic Absenteeism	%		Contract Goal
2019-2020	15.3%		Not Met
2018-2019	14.3%		N/A
Progress			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	A		N/A
Value-Added Overall	Grade		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	A		Met
Gifted Students	Grade		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	NR		N/A
Students with Disabilities	Grade		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	B		Met
Lowest 20% in Achievement	Grade		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	B		Met
Gap Closing			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	A		N/A
Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs)	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	100%	A	Met

Graduation Rate			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	NR		N/A
4-Year Graduation Rate	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	NC	NR	N/A
5-Year Graduation Rate	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	NC	NR	N/A
Improving At-Risk K-3 Readers			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	B		Met
Lit. Improvement/ Moved to On-Track	%	Grade	Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC	NR	N/A
2018-2019	62.6%	B	N/A
Third Grade Reading Guarantee	%		Contract Goal
2019-2020	100%		N/A
2018-2019	100%		N/A
State Reading/ELA Test Proficiency	%		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NC		N/A
2018-2019	54.7%		N/A
Prepared for Success			
Component Grade	Ohio School Report Card		Contract Goal
2019-2020	NR		N/A
2018-2019	NR		N/A

Other Academic Measures	
Nationally Normed Assessment	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A
2018-2019	Met
Specific Subgroup	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A

Comparative Data	
Similar School #1	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A
2018-2019	Met
Similar School #2	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A
2018-2019	Met

III. Non-Academic Performance

Mission-Specific	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Met

Attendance	
	Contract Goal
2018-2019	Met

Parent Satisfaction	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Met

Governing Board Performance	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Met

Student Discipline	
Grades K-3	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
Grades 4-8	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
Grades 9-12	Contract Goal
2019-2020	N/A

Organizational and Operational	
On-Time Rate	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Met
Accuracy Rate	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met
2018-2019	Met

Financial Performance	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met

Financial Performance and Sustainability	
	Contract Goal
2018-2019	Met

Financial Sustainability	
	Contract Goal
2019-2020	Met

IV. Legal Compliance

Apex Academy was in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws, rules, and regulations for the 2019-2020 school year.

V. Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

Apex Academy was not on a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) during the 2019-2020 school year.

VI. Performance Summary

Performance Summary	
Areas of Strength	<p>Apex Academy is managed by National Heritage Academies. They are represented in their Ohio schools by Greg Dennis. As a board liaison, I have found Doug to be extremely knowledgeable and thorough. He is a definite asset to the school. When Principal Jen Littlefield took over the school three years ago, it was a low performing school. The school earned a B grade in 2018-2019. For the 2019-2020 school year, all available student performance data shows that the gains are sustained, if not increased.</p> <p>Apex Academy is a well-organized and well-operated school. An area that stands out is the communication within departments. The school has grade band Academic Deans, a Dean of Intervention, and a Dean of Culture. They manage staff that report to them and summarize the performance of their teams regularly. The school has a well-defined method for capturing, analyzing, and acting upon available information and data.</p> <p>Apex Academy offers an array of professional development opportunities to staff. Some of these are delivered in school-wide sessions and some are offered to individual teachers via distance learning.</p>

Performance Summary

Areas for Improvement	As mentioned above, Apex is performing well. When considering areas of improvement, I believe that the school could benefit from an item analysis of benchmark assessments. While I am certain that the assessments have face validity and are adequately aligned, Apex Academy makes many decisions based upon these results. A confirmation that they are adequate predictors of performance on state tests would lend even greater confidence to these decisions.
Prospects for Renewal	Probable