



**Dearborn Heights Virtual Academy
Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

March 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the educational progress for the Dearborn Heights Virtual 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 Dr. Lynn Wietecha, the Program Director for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following [web site](#). Or you can go to <https://www.mischooldata.org/NewAer/CombinedReport.aspx> (enter information) or you may review a copy from the Dearborn Heights Board of Education building.

The state has identified some schools with the status of Reward, Focus or Priority. A Reward school is one that is outperforming other schools in achievement, growth, or is performing better than other schools with a similar student population. A Focus school is one that has a large achievement gap in 30% of its student achievement scores. A Priority school is one whose achievement and growth is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

In 2015-16 academic year, DHVA achieved an "all green" scorecard based on test scores, graduation rates and attendance.

Michigan Public School Accountability Scorecard

School Green

Increasing completion and graduation is our priority and the focus of our School Improvement Plan. DHVA tends to attract two very different types of student.

- The first is a learner who comes to DHVA because of our rich course offering and the ability to accelerate completion. It is not uncommon for DHVA to graduate motivated, skilled students a semester, or even a year early. Our courses allow student to work

beyond the minimum requirements and complete classes faster than a traditional schedule. These students graduate and continue on to colleges.

- The second type of student is one who has NOT been successful in traditional high school and is looking for alternative strategies and opportunities to catch up on credits and graduate. If the student is motivated and willing to work hard, DHVA can help him/her reach this goal. However, online learning is difficult and many of these students find that passing our courses is just as demanding as traditional school and do not complete. We lose these students in spite of the supports we offer. **These students count against DHVA's graduation rate, but we want to offer them one last opportunity to graduate.** We are working to improve our admission/selection processes and we continue to seek innovative ways to offer tutoring and support to all students.

Mission Statement

Removing Barriers to Learning

Building Profile

DHVA is a completely online high school. There is not physical building. DHVA enrollment is limited to no more than 70 students and we try to accept only those students who we believe will be successful in online learning. DHVA has a part-time director, and four (4) mentors who are assigned a case load of student to monitor and support. DHVA uses the Michigan Seat-Time waiver and uses the GenNet portal to enroll students in classes.

State law requires that DHVA also report additional information for the two most recent years. Since DHVA opened in September 2010, it is reporting data for two years. Also, DHVA is an online high school and several of the items below do not apply to virtual programs. Answers are provided as relevant.

1. Process For Assigning Pupils to the School

Students apply to the Virtual Academy by completing an application that may be found at this URL: <http://www.district7.net/DHVA/DHVAEnrollmentForm.pdf>. The program is an alternative high school and applicants are evaluated on several elements including their likely success in an online learning environment. Prior academic performance, credit completion, and behavior incidences are all considered. Applicants complete an assessment to help identify if they are good candidates for online delivery though assessment found here (<http://www.district7.net/DHVA/onlineQuiZ.html>).

Once accepted, students are enrolled in the program.

2. The Status of the 3-5 Year School Improvement Plan

DHVA has one clear goal for its improvement plan: guiding its students to graduation. To reach this, DHVA is targeting course completion by offering tutoring, both onsite and virtual, when students need support. Students attend session and the focus is on specific assignments with which they need help. The DHVA Improvement Plan has been accepted and approved by the State of Michigan and it updated each year.

3. Retention/Drop-Out/Graduation Rate

The 2016 dropout rate for DHVA is 22% (significantly improved from 53.8%) and the four year cohort graduation rate is 64%. The 5 year cohort rate is not yet available, however, each year our graduation rate increases. Increasing completion/graduate rates is our highest priority.

4. Parent/Teacher Involvement

DHVA is an online high school and does not host traditional parent-teacher conferences. A mandatory meeting is held with parents and students upon entry into our program and at the end of the year another meeting is held to review student completion and any needed modifications for next year. Participation in these meetings for the 2015-16 year was 100%. Throughout the year email and phone communication takes place weekly per the seat-time waiver requirements.

5. Student Achievement – SAT

College bound students take the SAT. DHVA had 100% participation. The scores are listed below for the 2012/13 students. Because DHVA has fewer than 10 11th grade students, scores are not reported.

Subject	Mean ACT Score	Benchmarks	Met or Exceeded	% Met or Exceeded
Composite	17.5	N/A		
English	16.5	18	0	0
Math	16.4	22	1	9.1
Reading	19.2	21	4	36.4
Science	18.5	24	0	0

6. A Brief Description of Each Specialized School

The Dearborn Heights Virtual Academy is a completely online high school that opened in September 2010. All courses are offered online through the MDE seat-time waiver through Genesee ISD. The program meets the requirements of the Michigan Department of Education for graduation. DHVA has limited enrollment, and students must apply for admission. Students are screened to ensure that they are good candidates for online learning. Students who struggle in traditional high schools due to attendance problems, chronic illness, bullying, discipline issues, etc. often find success in online learning. Students must be self-directed and motivated to complete courses. Courses are selected through the GenNet portal and based on students' credit completion needs. The program meets the seat-time waiver requirements.

7. How to Access a Copy of the Core Curriculum, the Implementation and an Explanation of the Variances for the State's Model

DHVA is a virtual high school. All courses are offered online through the MDE seat-time waiver through Genesee ISD. Courses are selected through the GenNet portal and based on students' credit completion needs. Currently there are nine (9) content providers approved by

Genesee ISD to use through the waiver program. Their curriculum and course descriptions of our primary vendors can be found on this website -- <http://www.district7.net/DHVA/courses.html>
Our program meets the requirements of the Michigan Department of Education for graduation and the MMC.

7. FOR HIGH SCHOOLS ONLY ALSO REPORT ON THE FOLLOWING:

a. THE NUMBER AND PERCENT OF POSTSECONDARY ENROLLMENTS (DUAL ENROLLMENT)

56% of DHVA graduates go on to attend postsecondary schools.

b. THE NUMBER OF COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES OFFERED (AP/IB)

In the 2015-16 school year, DHVA offered three (3) Advanced Placement (AP) courses to one (1) students.

c. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COLLEGE EQUIVALENT COURSES (AP/IB)

In the 2015-16 school year, DHVA offered five (3) Advanced Placement (AP) courses to one (1) students.

d. THE NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS RECEIVING A SCORE LEADING TO COLLEGE CREDIT

None at this time

The Dearborn Heights Virtual Academy continues to offer options to its students.

The program allows students to work at their own pace. This provided these motivated students to achieve course credits they had lost in their traditional high school programs. They exceeded the required number of online hours and were able to complete their needed courses and achieve credits. A number of likewise motivated students did well and completed courses and were promoted to the next grade in our program. However, some students discovered that online learning is difficult and dropped after one year in the program. They are returning to their traditional high school programs, seeking other alternative programs (not online) or pursuing a GED. Our program did not help these students move forward to graduation. Online course management systems provide the ability to look closely at data on student works habits. In reviewing this data, it became clear that the number of hours a student spends working on course work directly correlated to his/her completion and success. As the district moves forward in improving the program, it will stress the importance of time-on-task in online learning.

Sincerely,

Lynn Wietecha, Ph.D.

Director,

Dearborn Heights Virtual Academy