

**Annual Report of Community Schools
For
School Year 2016-2017**

Submitted by

**Tri-County Educational Service Center (050526) November
30, 2017**

Liberty Preparatory School (013962) Status Open

OVERVIEW

The mission of the Tri-County Educational Service Center (TCESC-IRN #050526) is to lead all individuals and agencies impacted by the services of the Educational Service Center through the 21st Century by providing innovative and quality services which meet changing individual and collective needs. As a part of those collective needs was the recognition that regular school programs may not be appropriate for all students and that certain students may need special programs to help them overcome attendance, academic, and/or behavioral problems.

As part of fulfilling the mission TCESC provides sponsorship for three (3) Conversion Community Schools in the tri-county area; two (2) of which are designated as Drop Out Prevention Recovery (DOPR) and one (1) which targets services for at-risk student in grades 7-12 who have been unable to achieve a high school diploma in the traditional school setting and/or whose cultural beliefs limit participation in public education beyond a certain grade level.

These three (3) schools are the Ashland County Community Academy (ACCA-IRN 009971- DOPR) in Ashland County, Beacon Hill Community School (BHCS-IRN #012501) and Liberty Preparatory School (IRN#013962-DOPR) in Wayne County.

LIBERTY PREPARATORY SCHOOL IRN 013962

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Liberty Preparatory School is to serve the needs of students and their families by providing innovative and supportive education solutions that are focused on academic success and the unique needs of each student.

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL

Liberty Preparatory School (Liberty Prep) is a site-based, conversion community school sponsored by the Tri-County Educational Service Center (TCESC). Liberty Prep is located at 243 North Milton Street, Smithville, OH 44677(Wayne County).

The School Leader is Brian Hessey, and the Treasurer is Sandy Hadsell.

The School is a Drop Out Prevention Recovery School with educational programming and services available to students in grades 7-12 for school year 2016-17, particularly those at risk of dropping out of school for various social, personal, and/or educational reasons.

The School contracts services for special education and student testing through Tri-County Educational Service Center (TCESC)and technology services through the Tri- County Computer Services Association (TCCSA).

Liberty Prep lists among its community partners: Wayne County Juvenile Court, Catholic Charities of Wayne County, Smithville United Methodist Church, Akron-Canton Food-bank and ANAZAO. Smithville police department Wayne County JFS.

2016-2017 was the School's fourth year of operation.

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

The objective for Liberty Preparatory Community School is to assist students in attaining a high school diploma and future employment. Students were provided the following:

- A personal educational plan; (all students completed this with the help of their Mentor Teacher or Dean of Students)
- A curriculum delivery system that allows for individual self-paced instruction through blended learning; (Students were offered classes on Odysseyware, teacher driven classes and other blended learning opportunities)
- Flexible operational hours that accommodate student/family work schedules; (School hours were Monday through Thursday 8am – 2:20pm, Fridays were available for one on one and small group tutoring. Students could also access online classes at any time)
- Credit Flexibility Options; (PE and Work Credits were offered through flex credit)
- An opportunity to participate in a career technical training program available through the Wayne County Career Center (7 students participated) and/or assistance in job placement through our Work-Study Program (7 students participated).
- One-on-one social-emotional support necessary to assist students in overcoming obstacles to success. This was provided by Mentor Teachers and teaming with Catholic Charities and ANA-ZAO. These organizations provided in-house counseling for students that were referred by staff or their parents.
- Possible pay for project work that teaches students competencies related to their career technical field of choice or Work Study Program.

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Students in grades 7-12 are provided with educational programming through a blended learning platform for the 2016-2017 year. Special services were provided to meet individual student needs with particular focus placed on those at risk of dropping out of school for various social, personal, and educational reasons.

Students in grades 7–12 are enrolled in a blended learning environment in which classes are offered through Odysseyware (an online program) and direct instruction which was provided by 4 full-time teachers, 1 part-time teacher and 2 part-time tutors, all highly qualified.

Students are involved in creating a personal success plan that addresses educational, employability and transition goals. Additional supports for; Special Services, Technology and Psychological services were contracted through Tri-County and TCCSA.

The School opened the year with sixty-five students and ended the year with eighty-one. Twenty-one students were celebrated as graduates at our ceremony in May.

Twenty-one students met graduation requirements and were given their High School Diploma in a ceremony on May 31st.

3-Year Report Card Comparison						
Category	2014-2015	Standard Status	2015-2016	Standard Status	2016-2017	Standard Status
Enrollment	38	NA	60	NA	62	NA
Attendance Rate	100.0%	NA	94.9%	NA	92.4%	NA
High School Test Passage	NR	MR	70%	Met	76.9%	Exceeds
Gap Closing AMO	NR	NR	NR	NR	0	Not Met
Progress Value-Added	-1.0	Met	NR	Not Met	Met	Met
4-Year Graduation Rate	NR	NR	40.9%	Exceeds	58.4%	Exceeds
5-Year Graduation Rate	NR	NR	36.4%	Met	46.4%	Exceeds
6-Year Graduation Rate	NR	NR	NR	NR	45.5%	Exceeds
7-Year Graduation Rate	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
8-Year Graduation Rate	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR
Graduation Rate Weighted	7.1%	Not Met	35%	Met	49.4%	Exceeds

2015-2016 Passage Rates on the OGT				
Writing	Reading	Math	Social Studies	Science
22%	35%	23%	27%	32%
2016-2017 Passage Rates on the OGT				
33%	50%	50%	60%	100%

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Students were given the MAP test twice during the year to create a benchmark and measurement for student growth. The OGT Tests and End-of-Course Exams were also administered to any students that were required to take them.

Liberty Preparatory MAP Reading Mean RIT Three Years Comparison									
Grade	2014-2015 Winter to Spring	Area Concern	Strong Performance	2015- 2016 Fall to Spring	Area of Concern	Strong Performance	2016-2017 Fall to Spring	Area of Concern	Strong Performance
12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	+2.6	None	None
11	-3.6	None	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	NA	NA	NA	-3.7	None	None
10	-10.2	Literature	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use	NA	NA	NA	+ .8	None	None
non	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	+10	None	None
Liberty Preparatory A MAP Math Mean RIT Three Years									
Grade	2014-2015 Winter to Spring	Area Concern	Strong Performance	2015-2016 Fall to Spring	Area of Concern	Strong Performance	2016-2017 Fall to Spring	Area of Concern	Strong Performance
12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Na	-1.1	None	None
11	-3.2	Real and Complex Number systems	None	NA	NA	NA	--4.5	None	None
10	-7.4	none	none	NA	NA	NA	+2.3	None	None
9	NA	NA	NA				+11.1	None	None

The Sponsor rates the School’s Academic Performance “C+ “. While the school has maintained acceptable percentages to have met standards on the DOPR Report Cards there is a lack of documentation of additional assessments beyond those required to demonstrate student progress.

The school has met its expected Academic Performance level.

FISCAL PERFORMANCE

The School’s treasurer is properly licensed and bonded and has completed all Fiscal Reporting (State and Federal) for FY17 in a timely and accurate manner. The School’s treasurer received the Ohio Auditor of State Award for exemplary financial reporting in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for the year 2016.

The treasurer provided written monthly financial reports to the Governing Authority (GA) and the School’s Sponsor. The reports were reviewed and taken into consideration to provide appropriate governance and technical assistance.

Fiscal reviews show that the School has no outstanding debt and has about a 12-months of cash on hand for operations. Liberty Preparatory has \$45,000 in CDs as a reserve for FTE adjustments. Five-Year Histories show cash balance improvements made over the years.

	General Fund Balance	All Funds Balance
FY15	\$ 32,369	\$ 74,483
FY16	\$ 104,459	\$ 133,852
FY17	\$ 15,758	\$ 7,065
FY18	\$ 181,331	\$ 225,695

	General Fund Revenue	General Fund Expenses	All Funds Revenue	All Funds Expenses
FY15	\$ 70,474	\$ 55,368	\$ 70,474	\$ 73,253
FY16	\$ 139,057	\$ 140,549	\$ 139,057	\$ 143,159
FY17	\$ 152,829	\$ 224,329	\$ 152,829	\$ 247,415
FY18	\$ 188,426	\$ 94,271	\$ 188,490	\$ 96,278

The School’s financial goal is to provide appropriate and adequate educational opportunities with the funding it receives.

Financial planning and financial stability is quite different with community schools than with traditional schools, as there is no tax base to rely on. The primary source of revenue is State Foundation Funding based on student FTE which varies as enrollment numbers vary, and since the School is a Drop Out Prevention Recovery School FTE calculation can vary considerably from month to month. However, the School’s enrollment has remained consistent. The School also receives some federal funding.

The School’s major expenses are staffing and facilities. The past two years have seen major increases in legal fees and auditing fees brought on by legislative mandates. While the School would like to see expanded facilities, it is utilizing what it can afford in its current location.

The School’s treasurer and superintendent review the budget at least quarterly and make recommendations to the Governing Authority based on current and projected enrollment numbers.

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The School appears to be healthier financially than it was three (3) years ago. As long as enrollment numbers remain strong, the finances can be strong with proper fiscal management. However, any significant drop in enrollment FTE could trigger a reduction in staff and/or services.

The Sponsor rates the School's Fiscal Performance an "A" based on the treasurer's accurate and extensive financial reporting as evidence by the Auditor of State recognition. The treasurer continues to provide prompt response to questions of the GA and Sponsor. The funds are well-managed and collaboration between the GA and the Treasurer is excellent.

The School has met its Fiscal Performance Level.

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS

The Liberty Preparatory School Governing Board is comprised of five (5) Board members who represented local businesses, education and community and county agencies. The members include Misty Hanson Juvenile Court employee; Cameron Maneese Wayne County Family and Children Council Coordinator, Helen Bartashus retired educator, Justin Chenevey local attorney and Matt Brown, career center educator.

The Liberty Preparatory School Board met on a monthly basis The Board reviewed the schools' finances and carefully guided all programming

All Board members, the director and treasurer completed Public Records and Sunshine Law Training, submitted background checks, and Disclosure and Conflict of Interest statements.

Auditor Verification of Findings was conducted for each member of the Board, the superintendent, and the treasurer with no findings for recovery found.

The Board along with several other stakeholders have also engaged in long term strategic planning. Facilities, growth, counseling services, lunch program and academic space have been determined to be the greatest needs.

Sponsor representatives regularly attended Board meetings. The Sponsor conducted formal and informal site visits throughout the year including prior to the opening of the school year and two visits with students in attendance.

The School maintains a website of its own but also provides information on the Sponsor's webpage to assure compliance with the Sunshine Laws. <http://www.youresc.k12.oh.us/schools/content-page/community-schools>

For 2016-17 the Sponsor rates the Schools Organization and Operation a "A-" based on the School's attention and or response in timely manner to matters regarding changing laws and regulations and documentation of meeting statutory requirements including but not limited board members completion and submission background checks and Conflict of Interest and Disclosure Statements and completion the required Public Records Training.

The School has met the Organization and Operations Performance Level.

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

The Sponsor gives the school an "A" rating in Legal Compliance. The School and its legal counsel are making an effort to update the current policy manual to keep up with changing legislation.