



WEST MICHIGAN AVIATION ACADEMY

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West Michigan Aviation Announces State Ranking

GRAND RAPIDS, MI – September 28, 2022 - West Michigan Aviation Academy (WMAA), an academically rigorous, public charter high school with a focus on aviation and STEM, is pleased to announce that it ranked as the #1 charter school and #4 among all public schools in the state for the percentage of students meeting or exceeding college readiness targets, as measured in the spring SAT.

“We invested tremendous money and time during and after COVID to help our students continue learning,” says WMAA CEO Nicole Gasper. “We didn’t miss one day more than what was mandated during the lockdown. As soon as schools could reopen, we pivoted to a virtual learning model. We then reopened for in-person learning for most of the school year. Although we have now returned to a ‘new normal,’ educators and students continue to feel the ripple effects of the pandemic. That is one reason why this ranking is so significant for us and our students.”

The rankings result from SAT testing conducted in the spring of 2022 with juniors across Michigan. “WMAA is a charter public high school with no entrance testing,” Gasper continues. “We have students from all walks of life, all economic backgrounds, and all ability levels. This ranking reflects the dedication and talent of our staff, our culture of personal responsibility, the partnership of our parents/guardians, and perseverance of our students. Students who attend our school know they are going to be challenged. They also know they will have every opportunity and support needed to succeed.”

“Overall scores for all students throughout the state were lower than usual, and that is reflective of the impact COVID has had,” Gasper says. “But we are thrilled that our hard work is paying off. The percentage of students proficient is the metric used by the State of Michigan’s school accountability system. This ranking means we are doing our jobs well. WMAA is committed to providing the preparation and support that will set students up for post-high school achievement, whether that is in college, a technical school, or the military.”

About: West Michigan Aviation Academy (WMAA) is a tuition-free public charter high school for grades 9-12. We are located on the campus of the Gerald R. Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, MI. Our vision is to provide an innovative, professional and welcoming environment that inspires growth and ignites a passion for lifelong learning. With a curriculum rich in aviation, STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics), and robotics, WMAA provides a unique educational opportunity for students to focus specifically on high-growth employment fields during their high school education. This better equips them to pursue higher education or technical degrees, and find employment in their chosen field.

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