

# Beacon Academy

Authorized by the Lafayette School Corporation  
Lafayette, IN

The mission of Beacon Academy is to assist middle school and high school students who are educationally at-risk achieve their full potential and, as a result, to strengthen the Greater Lafayette community. This is accomplished by operating a school unique in size, structure, and focus in the Greater Lafayette area.

Beacon is an extremely small school by design, which allows each student to have an individual program tailored to their specific needs. Today there are approximately 30 students across six grades (grades 7-12).

With such a small school, there are not 10 students in any disaggregated population to report testing results without identifying specific students. As such, we are not allowed to report testing results and we are not assigned an A-F grade as a means to ensure compliance with FERPA regulations.

**The student population is transitory with the majority of students attend Beacon because they have been expelled for another attendance center.**

# Metrics used to Assess Progress

- Given the small population, the extent of risk factors in each of our students, and the individualization of each student's program at Beacon, each student is carefully evaluated for their needs when they enroll and the units of measure are also individualized. If a student has attendance issues, an individual goal for improvement is set for that student in that area. If a student needs remediation in an area such as mathematics, an individual goal is set for that student in terms of math remediation and progress. Learning goals are evaluated every 9 weeks and revised as appropriate. Goals are also set in terms of personal qualities, such as cooperation, anger management, behavior, etc.

# Beacon Metrics (Continued)

**In terms of school-wide goals, we use measures such as the following:**

**number and depth of service learning projects undertaken;**

- student progress through the requirements leading to internships;**
- the number and quality of internships;**
- the number of courses completed**
- progress through the rigorous requirements of Beacon**

# Beacon Metrics (Continued)

- Middle school students are expected to undertake service learning projects two days per week, with academic content interwoven throughout. High school students lead middle school students in service learning projects, as well as work two full days per week toward obtaining an internship with a community mentor who shares their interest in a topic. Internships require completed internship projects that benefit the internship site and build in academic work and credits.

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- In the 2012-2013 school year, 24 students were enrolled in Beacon for more than one semester, with 16 high school students obtaining internships. Six of the 24 students were in middle school, with 2 middle school students organizing a service learning project that cleaned up the Wildcat Creek and who mobilized more than 70 community members to assist. Other service learning projects were completed at an autism center, the Humane Society, Food Finders Food Bank, and other community agencies.
- In 2012-2013, 26 high school students earned a total of 132 high school credits, while 3 middle school students completed 27 middle school courses.

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**Beacon students are required to write a 75 page autobiography prior to graduation, and to complete a Senior Thesis Project that benefits the community and is sustainable over time after the student has graduated. In addition, all students complete Exhibitions of their work at the end of each semester, and must pass Gateways at the end of 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades in order to move forward. Gateways are an expanded Exhibition, presented to the entire school and their Learning Plan Team, last approximately 75 minutes, must include a teaching demonstration, and are repeated after incorporating feedback from the LPT and peers.**

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