

# Inspiring Hope



**SUCCESS**<sup>®</sup>  
VIRTUAL + LEARNING CENTERS



The background of the image is a blurred photograph of a classroom. In the foreground, the backs of several students' heads and shoulders are visible as they sit at their desks. In the background, a teacher is standing and interacting with a group of students. The overall scene is out of focus, emphasizing the text overlay.

**TUITION FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL  
OFFERING TUTORING CENTERS  
TO SUPPORT STUDENTS  
THROUGHOUT MICHIGAN**

At Success, we don't accept the status quo that at-risk youth can't succeed. The data has proven over and over, from Grand Rapids, Flint, Pontiac to the shores of Escanaba with a graduation rate of 65.7 for students who have already dropped out at least once.

The data for k-12 show that Michigan and many other states are lagging behind in many areas for our youth to be job and college ready. Many of life's soft skills such as showing up on time to work, building relationships, shaking hands and interviewing are not being taught. This is setting up our at-risk youth to fall even further behind and increasing the drop out rate.

The average student enrolling for the first time at Success has been out of school over a year, is 18 years old and has completed only 3 credits toward their 22 credit, state certified high school degree. We take no shortcuts at Success. We believe all our students deserve another chance at getting the education that is rightfully theirs.

The current education system does not encourage schools to continue working with disadvantaged youth as the poor data these students carry with them harm their school's metrics. Our average student at Success is 18 years old and is considered to be a senior in high school. Common sense tells anyone that it is impossible to graduate this student in the same year they join us. That would mean the student would have to complete three years of high school work in one year. This is not a realistic expectation, especially for our at-risk student population. Currently how all schools in Michigan are judged.

Educating all our youth, including at-risk students, needs to be shared by all. We can't continue to allow 20% of our communities kids to be left behind. This costs society more later when we should be solving the problem now. Success has a workable, scalable, affordable and proven solution available.

Success does a phenomenal job with helping our at-risk youth earn a high school diploma within 3 years of enrolling in our school. We pace our students. When they first enroll with us we have them work on one class at a time so they can concentrate on one subject area and can develop smart habits. This helps them fill in gaps in learning, builds confidence and sets them up for a lifetime of success!

At-risk students have many outside factors influencing their daily lives that traditional students do not have. By offering accommodations to level the playing field we can give every student the opportunity for success.

MICHIGAN RANKS

**29<sup>th</sup>**

IN CAREER AND  
COLLEGE READINESS

SUCCESS

**3X**

**MORE TEACHERS**

STUDENT/TEACHER RATIO

SUCCESS

**17**

**YEARS OLD**

**3**

**CREDITS**

**1.5**

**CLASSES**

AVERAGE STUDENT  
ENROLLING

**SUCCESS  
HIGHEST  
QUALITY  
EDUCATION**

CULTURE OF SUCCESS





# THE DIFFERENCE SUCCESS CAN MAKE

Success is a non-traditional education program partnering with public school systems to better serve students. We focus on students who have dropped out or are at-risk for not completing high school. Success is more than just an online/virtual school. With first-class tutoring facilities that students can visit as often as needed, one-on-one teaching assistance, and their own computers and internet access, students are able to learn at their own pace while receiving tools and support in a welcoming, unassuming, and inclusive learning environment.

Success combines virtual, online courses with the optional support of physical brick and mortar tutoring centers. This unique education approach is targeted at high school students who may not have found success with traditional schools. In addition to our regular curriculum, Success offers internships and mentoring opportunities with local businesses as well as field trips, clubs, and other extracurricular activities at no cost to the student. This sets Success apart from other opportunity education programs or virtual schools.

Our best-in-class facilities and technology equip students with all of the tools they need to succeed. Each student is given their own laptop and a mobile hotspot to do their coursework anywhere, at any time. This makes the program flexible, working around a student's busy schedule and home life. Students can learn at their own pace as they balance school with employment if necessary. Performance is metric-based and measurable results are monitored. Each student who attends Success is held accountable for his or her educational progress, but more importantly, we ensure they have the right support system in place for their growth.

The staff members at Success are carefully selected. We ensure all Relationship Managers/Teachers have the mindset of a counselor and a heart for helping our youth. We provide two-way communication including home visits, if necessary, to ensure students are motivated to succeed. With an average of just 10 students in a center at any given time, students can spend as much time as needed with a teacher. When students visit a learning center, they walk into an environment where building relationships and providing support is just as important as learning.



# UNITED & SUSTAINED COMMITMENT

Our goal is to remove barriers to academic achievement and see each student graduate from high school. We work to help students realize a brighter future through initiatives such as after school support, summer school, dual-enrollment, non-traditional education, and real world experience.



[SUCCESSVLC.COM/PRAISEVIDEO](https://SUCCESSVLC.COM/PRAISEVIDEO)



[SUCCESSVLC.COM/NATIONWIDEVIDEO](https://SUCCESSVLC.COM/NATIONWIDEVIDEO)

**High expectations:** We have high hopes for every student and provide the infrastructure to support them in becoming contributors to their community.

**We serve at-risk students:** Many of our students have only earned about 8 credits at their previous school by age 18, putting them at-risk of never graduating. They view themselves as a Senior, but in reality are only at a Freshman level.

**Center based highly qualified, certified, full-time, teaching staff:** We establish tutoring centers in communities where our students live. Caring and professional educators are at each center and ready to help students when they need it. We have 3 times the staff of traditional schools to ensure personalized support.

**Special Education is a priority:** Success has a Special Education Director, and a Special Education Supervisor tasked specifically to oversee our students and our special education teachers. Every student, including general education students, receives an individualized plan (IP) to ensure his or her success. Full time social workers support all kids in our centers and in students' homes.

**Planned graduation program:** Each student chooses a class schedule that meets his or her education and personal needs. Every student works on one class at a time, completes it, builds success, and then moves forward to their other planned program classes. A large number of our students have demands on their time outside of school such as jobs and children, so this method often fits into their lives better. It is the same amount of classes a year as other schedules- just divided up differently.

**The tools they deserve:** We offer every student quality laptops and wireless internet devices because our kids need to know we value them and are willing to invest their education, life, and ultimate future.

**Internship opportunities:** We collaborate with local businesses to help students learn the world of work and the "soft skills" needed to succeed.





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**STUDENTS CAN SPEND AS MUCH TIME  
AS NEEDED WITH A TEACHER**

**MORE THAN**  
— JUST AN —  
ONLINE/VIRTUAL  
**SCHOOL**



**BEST-IN-CLASS  
FACILITIES**

AND TECHNOLOGY  
EQUIPS STUDENTS  
WITH ALL OF THE  
TOOLS THEY  
**NEED TO SUCCEED**



WE OFFER A NON-TRADITIONAL  
**FREE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
PARTNERING WITH OTHER  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS  
**TO BETTER  
SERVE STUDENTS**



# OUR HISTORY

More than a decade ago, Jim Bermingham became the superintendent of the Berrien Springs Public Schools. The district was in a dire financial situation. Costs were rising and the general fund balance was well below the recommended amount. Something had to change, so Jim looked for ways the district could have a competitive advantage. He created an alternative program that benefited the community and got kids back in school. That program increased funding and created even more opportunity.

Dallas Bell, President of Michigan High School Options developed Student Retention, a system for creating and growing blended learning centers. His goal was to reengage at-risk students who wanted to earn their diplomas, but needed a non-traditional option.

After meeting Jim, Dallas realized they had the same vision for reaching at-risk kids. Together, they developed a system to support local area schools in setting up their own virtual blended learning programs. They soon had a few programs up and running and were servicing a few hundred students.

In order to assist the at-risk youth in a way that would help them have a more secure future, different services needed to be provided. Economies of scale would be necessary to be able to serve our at-risk students in a way that ensured their greatest chance for success and that could provide for the extensive services needed.

Together, with Anita Bell they founded Success Virtual Learning Centers (Success) to better serve students who needed non-traditional education options. Anita brought to the organization her passion for helping students succeed and her proven abilities as a communicator and marketer. With her vision and communication systems, we have been able to grow exponentially in a very short time. They were able to reach those students who have lost hope in graduating from high school.

Success quickly grew from a few centers in Montcalm County, Michigan to over 23 centers throughout Michigan, serving thousands of students who needed a non-traditional educational setting. Since the partnership began, Success has changed the lives of many young adults by helping them learn the skills necessary to become productive contributors to society.





# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE

We provide innovative educational opportunities that inspire hope and lifelong achievement. Many of our students have obligations that may otherwise inhibit their educational success. Our goal is to offer non-traditional programs to help support their dreams of a brighter future. We welcome:

- Students who are parents who need to care for their children
- Home school families in need of additional choices and college dual enrollment
- Students who experience or have a past history of anxiety, emotional trauma, and other medical conditions
- Students who need to work in order to provide for their families
- Students who need to watch siblings in order for their parents to work

## Our Students are Engaged and Connected

- 50:1 student to teacher ratio (vs traditional public school where teachers serve; 30 students a class x 5 classes = 150 students a day)
- Success students average an SAT score of 836 (Many High Schools aspire to reach this score with their at-risk youth)
- 91% of enrolled students revealed they enjoyed the experience of learning at Success
- Average of 5 students per teacher during most hours of the day
- Quiet and comfortable working environment where students are treated as young adults
- Skilled, highly qualified educators at every center
- Advanced technology
- High expectations of all students
- True virtual blended learning program rather than a typical alternative education environment
- On average, Success students had only earned about 3 credits at their previous school by the age of 17, putting them at-risk of never graduating

**AVERAGE OF 5**  
**STUDENTS PER TEACHER**  
DURING MOST HOURS  
— OF THE DAY —



**SUCCESS**  
HAS CHANGED THE  
FUTURES OF MANY  
YOUNG ADULTS FOR  
**THE BETTER**



## SURVEY SCALE SCORES

PRIOR SCHOOL 36%  
WITH SUCCESS 94%

The teachers at this school care about how I am doing

PRIOR SCHOOL 45%  
WITH SUCCESS 90%

Teachers at this school believe in me

PRIOR SCHOOL 44%  
WITH SUCCESS 93%

The teachers here work hard to make sure that I stay in school

PRIOR SCHOOL 46%  
WITH SUCCESS 71%

I've had conversations with teachers at this school about my future

PRIOR SCHOOL 49%  
WITH SUCCESS 83%

The teachers here set high expectations for me

91%

Having teachers at the Success site who could help me when I was confused

## STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

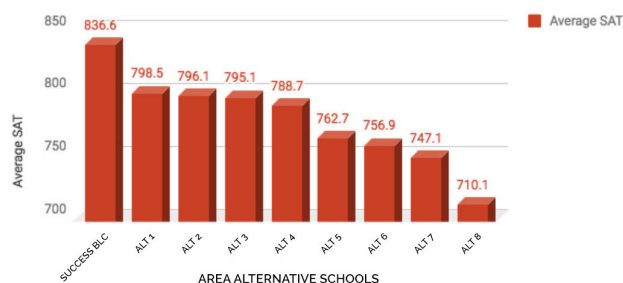
**Does it work?** Our 65.7% graduation rate serving at-risk dropouts says it does. This is **TWO** times better than most opportunity schools.

## THE PROOF IS IN THE NUMBERS

Success has chosen to spend thousands more on each student to serve them virtually and with optional center support staffed with caring, highly qualified, certified full time Relationship Managers/Teachers. The payoff for the investment is clear.

In our continued effort to offer an innovative and alternative option for students to earn their high school diploma, Success has expanded in Flint, Grand Rapids, Hazel Park, Lansing, Monroe, Muskegon, Pontiac, and Port Huron. Our students achieve SAT Scores that are better than students at the other local opportunity schools. The graph below compares Success average SAT scores against a sampling of the area opportunity schools.

Student Options for alternative education programs in Areas SUCCESS Serves



In 6 years we went from 0 kids to over 3,000 in 23 centers all across Michigan.

What makes this amazing is that the students we enroll are high school students that had dropped out or were so credit deficient that their high schools gave the student and their attached corresponding funding to us. This means we helped students without harming funding from local school districts.

**Are we effective?** Our SAT scores that are higher than other opportunity schools, and even exceeding some traditional high schools... while primarily serving at-risk students.

**Does it help or harm local schools?** Districts partner with us year after year, they would not partner with us if we were not a great solution for their district.

**Clearly our one class at a time sequential classes provide for deeper learning.**

**Success is ready to serve, wherever we are called. Our scalable, duplicatable model helps students be successful.**



# WHAT DO OUR STUDENTS THINK?

**WE SERVE ALL OF OUR STUDENTS NOT JUST COLLEGE BOUND**

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**PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLAN FOR EVERY STUDENT**

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**WE ACCEPT ALL STUDENTS ALL THE TIME!  
WE ARE HERE WHEN YOU NEED US MOST!**

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**GRADUATED  
OVER 900 STUDENTS  
AND COUNTING**

## TEEN MOMS



## EXCELLING STUDENTS



## FINDING THE RIGHT FIT





## REGAIN YOUR SELF WORTH



## DISTRACTED STUDENTS



## HOMESCHOOLED STUDENTS



## SOCIAL ANXIETY



## DON'T BE EMBARRASSED



## LEARN AT YOUR OWN PACE



## TRAGIC LIFE EVENTS



## FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING





# WHAT DO OUR COMMUNITIES THINK?



"Success Virtual Learning Centers have been a lifesaver for some of our students and Dallas was the catalyst for this. The program will benefit your community and students."

Kristi Teall, Superintendent St. Louis Public School and former Superintendent Central Montcalm Public School (developed program in both districts)

"Comstock Park High School has experienced a very positive partnership with Success to meet the individual needs of select students in our district. The ability of Success to offer flexible non-traditional options to students who are credit deficient or facing other unique challenges in order to make continued educational progress towards a high school diploma has proven to be very valuable. In addition, the instruction and administration have both been of high quality for our students. Comstock Park looks forward to continuing our positive relationship with Success and the value they bring to our community."

Ethan Ebenstein, Superintendent  
Comstock Park Public Schools

"Working collaboratively with Success, allowed us the necessary planning time to build our own virtual school. It has taken several years, but we owe much of our confidence in our virtual school to the quality we have directly observed in their work."

Pete Haines, Superintendent, Greenville Public Schools



# THE BENEFITS OF SUCCESS

## Goals of Partnering with Success

- Provide high quality, effective education for students who have dropped out and students who don't fit into traditional high school structure
- Educate students locally in their communities
- Build a first-class facility for your community
- Quality, trusting relationships between schools

## Benefits of our Partnership

- Decrease your dropout rate - Success is responsible for all data
- Free summer school and after school support, a significant cost savings, for ANY of your high school students
- No costs involved or time away for your IT department to service or maintain technology



"When I dropped out of high school 4 years ago, I never thought I'd graduate. I tried other online programs but they never worked for me like you guys have. Thank you."

- Cheyenne Preston, Graduate 2016

# HELPING BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY



Success emphasizes job skills through their internship and mentoring programs. By matching student interests with the needs of local businesses, business owners provide on-the-job training and students learn valuable skills. Success students graduate not only with the diploma they need, but also with a work history, references and often a job.

The Success system can be duplicated in any community. It is a scalable system that solves many of the issues that contribute to the high school dropout problem. In most cases, the kids who dropped out have lost hope. Success gives them hope and a vision for their future.

Success students graduate, not only with the diploma they need, but also with a work history, references and often a job!



# WHAT DO OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES THINK?

"We are impressed by the findings of the research we have performed as we investigated this opportunity and encouraged by the testimonials we have received from other businesses and community organizations that have been positively impacted by the presence of a Success in their area."

Nicholas Bakker, President, Alger Heights Business Association

"As a professional with many years' experience working with youth from diverse backgrounds, I have found Success to be among the most effective in helping students complete their high school education and prepare for the future."

Gabrielle Likavec, Michigan Works Youth Program Coordinator

"Success's confidence in their students led me to hiring Ron Wilburn in 2013, after he graduated from Success in Greenville. Ron became a great asset to my business and traveled around the state installing and servicing alarm systems. I look forward to hiring another Success graduate in the future."

Tom Martin, Owner, Alarmtek

"I would recommend any community to consider a relationship with Success for the placement of a virtual school."

Tina Weller, Ionia Chamber of Commerce Executive Director









# We Inspire Hope.

[SuccessVLC.com](http://SuccessVLC.com)



**616.426.9290**

-  We provide a safe and positive place for your success
-  We build a plan just for you
-  We listen- your story matters
-  We grow to serve our communities

- Success Mission Statement