

ACE Academy and Spectrum Juvenile Justice Services

ACE

Founded in 2007, ACE Academy is a strict discipline academy primarily serving adjudicated youth in residential treatment facilities located in Highland Park which are operated by Spectrum Juvenile Justice Services (SJJS). ACE Academy also operates two community-based sites, one in Highland Park and another in Detroit. ACE provides the educational programming for the youth located at these facilities and works in conjunction with SJJS to fulfill student treatment plans. Educational services are provided twelve months a year in a structured, campus-based environment.

ACE's current management provider is edtec central, LLC which has provided management since the school's founding. Educational Partnerships, Inc. will take over management starting July 1, 2021.

The ACE Board consists of five members: Curtis Smith, Christine Schechter, Shirley Murray, Monica Palmer, and Mary Mager.

Spectrum Juvenile Justice Services

Spectrum Juvenile Justice Services (SJJS) provides comprehensive services which are designed to meet the comprehensive range of social, emotional, behavioral, developmental and educational needs of the youth, while achieving its goal of rehabilitation.

SJJS utilizes the Forward Focused Treatment Model - an empirically guided clinical treatment program developed specifically for adolescents with serious offending behaviors. The model uses evidence-based practices including cognitive behavioral therapies and trauma-focused interventions, based on adolescent brain development research.

Youth who participate in treatment at SJJS are referred from the Wayne County Care Management Organization system and from the State of Michigan. Program length averages between 9-12 months; discharge from the program is determined by the court system, with the ultimate goal of rehabilitation and community integration.

SJJS is a 501c (3) nonprofit founded in 1994. The Calumet facility opened in 2000 and the Lincoln facility opened in 2008. SJJS is accredited through Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)

Demographic Information

Although the student population fluctuates it has historically been about 125-150 students. Males comprise the vast majority of the population, but there is a dedicated pod (a group of 10) for female youth at the Calumet facility.

The approximate racial breakdown is as follows: African American 70%; Caucasian 25% and Latino/Other 5%. These are based on rough averages as the numbers fluctuate. The typical student age range is between 14 through 19 years old.

Service Fees

The current educational service provider receives a management fee of 12% of revenue. The new provider will be compensated at 10.75% of revenue, plus .40 of FTE salary for the assistant superintendent of instruction. The following numbers come from the Academy's audited financial statements:

Year	Management Fee
2019-2020	\$228,067
2018-2019	\$288,274
2019-2020	\$361,580

Note that the fee does not represent a net profit since the provider is still responsible for certain overhead, central office staff, etc.

Compliance and Management

Ace Academy faced several compliance challenges in 2020, specifically with respect to special education. The Board engaged an outside special education vendor, Global Psychological Services to assist in addressing special education programming. This vendor has taken over the special education functions for the Academy, overhauled systems and procedures, and will continue in the new academic year. Likewise, the Board conducted an extensive RFP search for a new management company and awarded a contract to Educational Partnerships Inc (EPI). EPI has experience operating strict discipline academies and is working on the management transition.