

**CHEBOYGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PROBATE/FAMILY COURT**

THE COMPASS ACADEMY

**Daryl P. Vizina
Cheboygan County Probate/Family Court Judge**



Facts about the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Prepared by Dr. Fred Cheesman for the *National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts 28th Annual Conference*.

What is the “School-to-Prison Pipeline?”

The "school-to-prison pipeline" refers to the policies and practices that push our nation's schoolchildren, especially our most at-risk children, out of classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems. This pipeline reflects the prioritization of incarceration over education. (<https://www.aclu.org/fact-sheet/what-school-prison-pipeline>)

PRE-COMPASS ACADEMY

- **Prosecuting Attorney**
 - **Felony Data**
 - **Substance Use**
 - **Graduating High School**
 - **Specialty Courts**
- **2000-2018 SAYPA**
 - **Sanction-based [no services/treatment] program that removed “bad kids” from the local schools. It was the last stop before removal from the community.**

THE VISION

- **The goal was to create a local day treatment program combined with a specialty court located in a traditional academic setting.**

THE PROGRAM PILLARS

Attendance

Academic Effort

Substance Free

Respect [Others & Rules]

THE PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- **Compass is a partnership between the Court and CAS.**
- **Compass is encompassed within CAS's alternative education program. There are 5 teachers and special education instruction available.**
- **The school is 9th-12th grades in traditional school setting.**
- **We provide 2 IPO's [full-time] and 3 classroom aides.**
- **Compass offers credit recovery, small class sizes and high adult-to-student ratio.**

OUR COMPASS TEAM

- **Prosecutor**
 - **Intensive PO's**
 - **Counselors**
 - **Judge**
- * **Defense Attorney**
 - * **CMH**
 - * **DHHS**

THE WEEKLY COMPASS SESSION

- **Every Friday afternoon at the school.**
- **The team privately discusses each juvenile's progress.**
- **An individual informal session with each juvenile and the team. We discuss juvenile's weekly performance.**
- **Often times the juvenile is given an assignment for the following week.**

NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS:

- **In-School Counseling**
- **Home-Based Family Counseling**
- **College/Trade-School Campus Visits**
- **Yoga**
- **Professional Visits: Military, Moran, Petoskey Plastics & Moeller**
- **Field Trips → Putt-Putt Golfing, Bowling, Fish Hatchery & Beach**
- **MichiganWorks – Driver's License Program**
- **On-Site Washer and Dryer**
- **MSU-E - Healthy Cooking Classes**
- **Food at Christmas and Thanksgiving**
- **Donated Clothing for Kids to Take**
- **Choices**
- **Summer Program**
- **Student of Week**

PROGRAM STATISTICS/RESULTS

Total Students in Compass since January 1, 2019:	122
2024 - Total Students/Juveniles:	26
2024 - Avg HS GPA before Compass:	.74
2024 - Avg HS GPA while attending Compass:	2.38
2024 - Avg hours absent before Compass:	72.67
2024 - Avg hours absent while attending Compass:	26.3
2024 - Avg write-ups before Compass:	13/year
2024 - Avg write-ups while attending Compass:	2.3/year
2024 - Graduated:	4
2024 - Removed Unsuccessful:	3

SUCCESS STORY

“The Compass Academy helped to reach my grandson before he become involved with the adult court and graduated him. Our family would not be the same without the Court’s influence.

- Kathleen Lapeer

THE STORY OF THE 2017 5th GRADE STUDENT ATTENDANCE RECORD

**9/5, 9/11, 9/22, 9/26, 9/27, 9/28, 10/3, 10/5, 10/9,
10/11, 10,16, 10/17, 10/18, 10/19, 10/20, 11/7,
11/16, 11/20, 11/21, 11/22, 11/28, 12/1, 12/5, 12/6,
12/7, 12/11, 12/22, 1/8, 1/9, 1/11, 2/2, 3/8, 3/9,
3/12, 3/13, 3/14, 3/15, 3/19, 4/6, 4/9, 4/10, 4/11,
4/18, 4/25, 4/27, 4/30, 5/1, 5/2, 5/4, 5/7, 5/8, 5/9,
5/10, 5/11, 5/15, 5/21, 5/22, 5/23, 5/24, 5/31, 6/5**

61 Absences

PAUL CLARK
RETIRED CHEBOYGAN SUPERINTENDENT

“In both my roles as superintendent of Cheboygan Area Schools and as vice-principal of Cheboygan High School, I was able to see first hand the important impact that their program [Compass] has on students... I have seen many students that struggled in the regular classroom setting strive in the structured setting of Compass Academy.”

ELIZABETH FAIRBANKS IL SUPERINTENDENT

“We see value in the Compass program here at Inland Lakes when the struggling children are supported in a more structured environment. Students at Inland Lakes and Compass benefit from this partnership and losing this program would greatly impact our community... The Compass Academy has provided a needed service for several families in our Indian River community.”

MATTHEW BAUGHMAN WOLVERINE SUPERINTENDENT

“We desperately need the kind of help that specialty court programs like the Compass Program provides us.”

“I myself am a graduate from an alternative school, much like the Compass Program... I can say with confidence that I would not be where I am today without the structure, support and academic opportunity that it provided.”

THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS