



# collaborative, consolidated & cooperative 2013

Montcalm Area Intermediate School District, and the seven local school districts represented in Montcalm County, support collaborations that promote quality educational opportunities for students and efficiencies that offer cost savings. Educators in Montcalm County have developed and participate in many collaborative programs and services.

The following examples of collaborative, consolidated, and cooperative programs and services that serve MAISD were taken from the *2012 District Service Consolidation Reports* and contributions from MAISD local districts.

## col·lab·o·rate

*to work jointly with others or together especially in an intellectual endeavor*

## our partners

- Carson City - Crystal Area Schools
- Central Montcalm Public Schools
- Greenville Public Schools
- Lakeview Community Schools
- Montabella Community Schools
- Tri County Area Schools
- Vestaburg Community Schools

## our purpose

*Leading, collaborating, and serving to create education without boundaries*

## our promise

*Exceptional leadership with unmatched service*

## *Expanding Opportunities for Students*

CAREER FOCUSED EDUCATION provides students the opportunity to explore career pathways and prepares them for postsecondary education, acting as a countywide career preparation system in conjunction with business and industry partners. Students from seven districts are served at the Montcalm Area Career Center and supplementary services are provided to local districts through various outreach activities.

- Career Cruising software was provided to districts along with Cruising training for staff and students at a savings of \$2,765 per year.
- A Regional Outreach Coordinator is provided to local districts to assist with career exploration presentations and EDP development for middle and high school students at a savings of \$101,025.
- Approximately 65 at-risk 8th grade students from around the county participate in the Middle School Mentoring program each year, which is aimed at increasing motivation and showcasing the relevance of academics in the pursuit of one's future endeavors.
- Over 800 8th graders learn more about career pathways and the connection to higher education at Career Days, a collaborative event with Montcalm Community College (MCC). An internal study has shown that 80% of middle school students are able to identify the pathway in which they will pursue a future career.
- Students attending Montcalm Area Career Center, known as The MACC, in 2011-2012 earned 1,001 free college credits from Montcalm Community College, a combined savings to their families of \$101,051.

MAISD, in collaboration with the business and school communities, provides a week long career exploration program known as the Career Showcase designed for high school students in Montcalm County. This event has been offered annually since 2001. It is held after school allowing parents and students to visit business sites and explore a variety of careers in all career pathways. Each year, dozens of businesses are featured throughout Montcalm County. Since 2001, more than 2,200 students have attended this event.

# collaboration in action!

- ABC Online Registration System
- ACT Plan & Explore
- AESOP Substitute System
- Alternative Education Programs
- Applitrak Software Program
- ASCD Memberships
- Assistive Technology Lending Library
- CIMS Business, Finance, and HR
- Bus Driver, Mechanic and Supervisor  
County Wide Emergency Training
- Bus Maintenance Agreements
- Career Cruising Software
- Career Showcase
- CASA (Court Appointed Special  
Advocates)
- Central Montcalm Public Schools  
Snowplowing & Salting
- Central Montcalm Public Schools Food  
Service Partnership
- Child Death Review Team
- Coalition of Greater Greenville
- College Advising Corp
- C.O.M.M.I.T. (Consortium of Mid-  
Michigan Instructional Teams)
- Community & Education Foundations
- County-wide Common Calendar

EARLY CHILDHOOD is a collaborative effort with schools, families and social service agencies to support the school success of children from birth to 5. Outreach efforts include Early Childhood program support, Early On<sup>®</sup>, Great Start Readiness Programming, and Great Parents Great Start. “Welcome Baby” visits are provided to parents to support development in partnership with United Lifesyles. Schools and social service agencies receive consultation and professional development opportunities to encourage healthy behavior and development for children birth to 5. Families of children birth to 26 years with developmental concerns can call Project Find’s central number. The school districts work collaboratively to evaluate whether the child is eligible for Special Education services and then provide them if necessary. There are 124 children in Early On<sup>®</sup> Part C.

The MONTCALM COUNTY GREAT START COLLABORATIVE (MCGSC) is unique in that its membership includes parents, faith-based, business, and education representatives. This planning body fosters partnerships that create initiatives like joint recruitment for preschool enrollment. Joint recruitment has saved local districts \$16,864 annually. This year, MCGSC has captured \$28,000 to support early childhood initiatives for local districts. Since its inception in 2008, this total is \$126,000.

HOMELESS STUDENT SERVICES coordinates a variety of services for 1,123 homeless students in all districts and public school academies within Montcalm, Gratiot, Isabella, and Ionia Counties. Training and technical assistance is provided to all consortium members as well as to students and families to assure compliance with the requirements of the McKinney-Vento federal legislation. Facilitating homeless student attendance and retention saved local districts possible lost revenue of \$7,822,818.

MAISD serves as a member and fiduciary agent of Montcalm County Suicide Prevention Coalition. The collaboration provides support for YELLOW RIBBON CLUBS which have been established in all seven local schools districts at the middle and high school level. The club is a nationally known teenage peer organization designed to provide suicide awareness, prevention, and support.

Several MAISD representatives serve on the WE CARE FOR KIDS COUNCIL which is Montcalm County’s child abuse and neglect council. This council is responsible for the provision of a five week training series called “PROTECT YOURSELF,” a program that teaches youngsters personal safety skills and includes a sexual abuse component. It aligns with the Michigan Model and is curriculum integrated. It is taught to all 1st and 3rd graders attending Montcalm County elementary schools. The cost of nearly \$10,000 for the teacher and classroom materials is paid by We Care for Kids Council.

MAISD has embarked on a county-wide initiative known as “MAKING IT COOL TO BE KIND” in Montcalm County. This program is supported by all seven local districts, business organizations, and community members. It is led by a nationally known trainer who specializes in building climate teams and creating positive school environments with community and business components included. The goal is to identify and design the culture in which we expect to live; to identify the standards of how we wish to be treated; to create a culture by design. In doing so, we can start to breakdown many of the barriers that exist for students to achieve learning success and, not only improve the quality of their educational experience, but also the quality of their lives. Business and community sponsorships have provided over \$10,000 in funding to support this effort.



# collaboration in action!

- *County-wide Fire Suppression*
- *County wide school mail delivery*
- *County-wide Transportation for Special Education Programs*
- *CTE Agreements with Nine Institutions of Higher Learning*
- *CTE fourth year math credit*
- *CTE third year English credit*
- *CTE worksite placements*
- *Dolly Parton Imagination Library*
- *e2020*
- *Early College at MCC*
- *Early On®*
- *Eighth Grade Career Day*
- *Emergency Management Operations Center/EMS Region 6*
- *English Language Learners*
- *General Education Leadership Network*
- *Genesee Seat Time Waiver*
- *Grant Writing*
- *Great Start Collaborative Montcalm & Ionia Counties*
- *Great Start Readiness Program*
- *Greenville Optimist Camp*
- *GVSU Math and Science Center*
- *Have Mercy Family Services*

MI-CAN, the Montcalm - Ionia College Access Network, developed out of a need to help students and families realize that attending college was indeed possible. Its aim is to increase both college enrollment and increase the number of county residents with college degrees and/or technical certificates. In partnership with Montcalm Community College, Ionia County ISD, and various community partners, MI-CAN counselors are available to present financial aid workshops for middle and high school students and parents, provide access to MI-CAN services, and advise local high school students. These services provide a savings of over \$35,000 per year.

MAISD provides a student assessment data analysis system, known as IGOR, tied to all core curricular areas and used by all seven local districts at no cost to them offering a savings to local districts of \$18,000 annually.

MAISD acts as the fiduciary for the OMBUDSMAN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM. This program provides alternative education to over 50 students in six districts. It serves middle and high school students and has a graduation rate of over 90%. The program cost per pupil is less than the foundation allowance thus saving districts over \$45,000.

THE EARLY COLLEGE AT MONTCALM COMMUNITY COLLEGE will be home to over 20 juniors from four local districts. The Early College will afford students an opportunity to earn their high school diploma and Associate's Degree or certificate in an approved program at no cost, including books. Savings to participating students and their families over the life of the program is over \$200,000.

CURRICULUM LEADERS work collaboratively with schools to support continuous improvement efforts including onsite coaching for No Child Left Behind and Title I improvement work, school climate, teacher leadership, and administrator training.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES were provided to 2,127 students last year in 7 local school districts, 6 non-public schools, and 3 home schools. All services, supports, and products respond to state and federal mandates and local district needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION provides Early On, Parent Child Learning Groups, Little People Land, 21 Special Education Classroom Programs, School Psychologists, Teacher Consultants, Occupational Therapists, Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants, Physical Therapists, and Physical Therapy Assistant services to all seven local school districts.

SPECIAL EDUCATION works with Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, Mid-Michigan Industries, and Michigan Rehabilitation Services to provide cash match for post-high school education/employment for students with special needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION is involved with collaborative partnerships between local school districts and community agencies. Two examples include:

- The Early On Local Interagency Collaborative Council (education, community mental health, health department, local medical agencies) meets on a regular basis to identify and coordinate services for children with special needs from birth to three years of age.
- The Transition Council (includes Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Mid Michigan Industries, Montcalm Center for Behavioral Health) meets regularly to improve outcomes for students transitioning from school to adulthood.



## collaboration in action!

- *Head Start & Early Head Start*
- *Healthy Montcalm*
- *Higher Education Partnerships*
- *Homeless Student Services*
- *Hometown Programs*
- *IGOR Data Warehouse*
- *Ionia County ISD General Education Consortium*
- *Lakeview Adolescent Health Center*
- *LANGUAGE!, PALS, Lexia and Read Well Software*
- *Local District Gym Floor Burnishing*
- *Local Interagency Collaborative Council*
- *Local Planning Team/EMS Region 6*
- *“Making it Cool to be Kind” in Montcalm County (Climate Teams)*
- *Master Gardeners*
- *Medicaid Billing*
- *Michigan College Access Network*
- *Michigan Community Dental Clinics*
- *Michigan Green Schools*
- *Michigan Liquid Asset Fund*
- *Michigan Profile for Healthy Youth*
- *Michigan Rehabilitative Services*

## *Maximizing Dollars for Districts*

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES provide support for newly placed superintendents, governance training for superintendent/board teams, and leadership training for administrative teams.

CAPITAL AND BUILDING PROJECTS & FACILITY OPERATIONS networks with local districts to share information, help improve facility management effectiveness, including Michigan Green Schools program. MAISD also provides services to Central Montcalm Public Schools in the area of maintenance, custodial, and grounds supervision for a savings in personnel costs of approximately \$70,000.

MAISD contracts with Central Montcalm Public Schools and their food services department for the provision of student nutritional services at our Seiter Education Center and event catering throughout the district.

COMMUNICATION SERVICES are provided through a variety of education and legislative news links and subscriptions at no cost to the districts. Additionally, a variety of published and online communication pieces are provided such as Education Matters, The Connection, The Special Edition, Annual Report, social media pages, and collaborative legal notices for newspaper/media relations. Publication of county-wide legal notices saved local districts \$1,000 in newspaper fees.

FINANCIAL SERVICES provides operational and accounting support to local educational agencies (LEAs) as requested. For the past three years, MAISD has provided payroll services for Carson City - Crystal Area Schools. MAISD is also providing business manager services to Central Montcalm Public Schools. Annual savings to our local districts total approximately \$103,600.

GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES provides assistance to local school districts through pupil accounting audits (valued at \$13,194 for personnel services, desk & field audits), truancy and back to school support (valued at \$4,000), and legislative services (valued at \$10,000), all of which saved districts a total of \$27,194.

APPLI-TRAK is a human resources employment software used by MAISD and provided to all 7 local districts at no cost to them for a savings of \$2,550.

SPECIAL EDUCATION purchases an electronic data management system for all seven local districts called Ed Plan. Ed Plan creates Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP), Individualized Education Plans (IEP) and documents Medicaid billing.

MONTCALM HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATION sets the agenda for collaborative activities, focuses on common outcomes, and acts as the common community interface with state agencies on state collaborative efforts in human services.

There are more than twenty LEADERSHIP GROUPS composed of local district representatives with similar job responsibilities who regularly meet with their MAISD counterparts to share peer discussion, best practices, and provide feedback on programs and services.



# collaboration in action!

- *MI Works Education Advisory Group*
- *MI Works Workforce Development Board*
- *Mid-Michigan District Health Department*
- *Mid-Michigan Industries*
- *MI-ACCESS Alternate Assessment*
- *Montcalm Alliance*
- *Montcalm Area Autism Collaborative*
- *Montcalm Area Career Center*
- *Montcalm Area Career Center Advisory Boards*
- *Montcalm Community Dental Clinic*
- *Montcalm & Ionia County-wide Curriculum Council*
- *Montcalm Area Dental Advisory Board*
- *Montcalm Area Personnel Cooperative*
- *Montcalm Area Reading Council*
- *Montcalm Community College shared faculty and space*
- *Montcalm County School Boards Association*
- *MAISD School Safety Network*
- *Montcalm County Suicide Prevention Coalition*
- *Montcalm Human Services Collaboration*

MAISD participates in REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTER (REMC) 8, one of Michigan's 22 REMCs, which support quality teaching and learning by providing effective cost-savings through statewide cooperative purchasing. These include electronic classroom aids such as computer hardware and software, A/V equipment, art supplies, and paper products; and collaborative activities such as online instructional video broadcasting that benefit the educational process. This creates a savings of \$14,103.

Regionalization of SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION provides each local district with specialized transportation for their students with special needs. This department offers countywide transportation services efficiently at \$3.40 per mile. The SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT also meets regularly with the other transportation departments in the county. The department coordinates professional development, including mock disasters with county medical and emergency management departments, a regional consortium for random drug testing, and Region 6 ISD transportation supervisor meetings.

GRANT WRITING - Embedded within the General Education Department collaboration is a grant writer. The main task of the grant writer is to provide the ISD, as well as local districts, with options for possible grant funding. Since September 2012, grant awards to MAISD are over \$215,000. These grants allow for the continuation, and in some cases expansion, of programs that might otherwise have been subject to budget cuts and allows for the creation of opportunities such as a summer STEM camp for 6th grade students provided at no cost to families or schools. Grants have been written for local districts as well and those awarded total \$3250.

The TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT provides high quality technology systems, support, and services to schools with server hosting, access to online resources, collaborative purchasing, and professional development. Services include student information system support, human resource and financial systems, assistive technology, transportation management, food service management, and technology integration for the classroom. The technology department's collaborative services model saves MAISD and constituent districts more than \$175,000.00 annually.

- *Technology Planning* – Assistance with technology planning, consultation, review, and submission to MDE. The MAISD Technology Director is the technology plan reviewer for Montcalm County.
- *Network Administration and Telecommunications Services* – WAN/LAN support, maintenance, troubleshooting, and upgrade planning.
- *End User Technical Support* – MAISD's team of technology specialists are available to districts contracting for support services. Currently, two districts take advantage of our support services with typical savings of \$10,000 or more per district annually.
- *Assistive Technology Support* – AT consultant available to districts based on student IEP's for advice, assistance, and support of AT devices and best practices.
- *Internet and Content Filtering* – MAISD deploys the iBoss content filter available to all districts at discounted consortium pricing.
- *Collaborative Technology Purchasing* – MAISD always strives to streamline purchasing to reduce costs for hardware, software licensing, and services.
- *Document Imaging Services* – Collaborative server hosting and shared licensing reduce costs for document imaging services and training.



## collaboration in action!

- *M-TEC Board of Overseers*
- *Munetrix Business Analysis Software*
- *ORS Retirement Reform Assistance*
- *Parent Advisory Council*
- *PowerSchool*
- *Professional Development*
- *Professional Education Services Group (PESG)*
- *Project Find*
- *Pupil Accounting Auditing*
- *Reality Store - Middle School*
- *Regional Beverage Consortium*
- *Regional Data Initiatives*
- *REMC 8*
- *Rosetta Stone access and support*
- *Rotary Clubs Stanton & Greenville*
- *School Improvement Teams*
- *Smithsonian Institute presentations*
- *Special Education countywide center-based programs*
- *Special Education Transportation*
- *Special Education Work Placements*
- *START Statewide Training*
- *STEM Camp - 6th Grade*
- *Substitute Reimbursement*

- **Server Hosting and SAN Storage** – MAISD’s network operations center hosts participating district’s servers and file storage in a high security virtual environment. The location features electronic card access, dual-climate control, and automatic generator power. Shared virtual server hosting can save a district up to \$5000.00 per server annually based on three year hardware life, maintenance, and utility savings.
- **Moodle** – MAISD hosts and supports the Moodle online learning environment available to all districts for online classroom curriculum and assessment.
- **Technology Recycling**: Annual collaborative technology recycling at no cost to local school districts and the community.
- **Rosetta Stone** – MAISD purchases 100 licenses of Rosetta Stone online language learning available at no cost to support English language learners needing additional supports. Consortium discounts are available for districts wishing to deploy Rosetta Stone in language classrooms. Typical savings of \$9,000 annually to our districts.
- **E2020** – Education 2020 online curriculum for credit recovery is available to districts at a discounted consortium rate through Ottawa Area ISD. In addition, content is locally mirrored on a MAISD provided Tier 3 content server for improved performance at no additional cost. Typical savings of about \$4000 per district based on 3 year life, maintenance, and utilities.
- **Data Warehousing Services** – Consortium access to data warehousing services for storing, assessing, analyzing, and reporting on data sets with automatic data transfer from student information systems, integration with state reporting data, and custom reports. Typical savings of about \$16,000 annually.
- **ABC Signup** – Professional development registration system is available for easy access to event information and registration for all events within Montcalm and Ionia counties. The registration service manages MAISD and ICISD events saving districts about \$2,500 annually.
- **Technology and Maintenance Help Desk** – MAISD provides the Kayako help desk management solution to supported districts and available to districts at discounted consortium prices.
- **E-rate Administration** recovering an average of 80% of Internet and Telecommunications costs for an annual savings of approximately \$68,000.
- **Survey Monkey** – MAISD shares a license for online survey tools by Survey Monkey, assisting with survey creation, management, data collection, and reporting. License sharing saves each district \$200.00 annually.



## collaboration in action!

- *Superintendents' Drop Out Challenge with MASSP and CENMI (statewide collaborative)*
- *Survey Monkey Access and Support*
- *22i Technology Consortium*
- *Teaching American History Grants*
- *Technology Help Desk*
- *Transitions Council*
- *Truancy Officer*
- *Truancy Summer School*
- *Truancy Referral Services*
- *United Lifestyles*
- *Van Buren Legislative Consortium*
- *Versatrans Transportation Software*
- *Waste Management Consortium*
- *We Care For Kids Council*
- *Welcome Baby Visits*
- *Yellow Ribbon Clubs*
- *Youth Advisory Council*

## Sharpening Skills for School Employees

GENERAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION WITH IONIA COUNTY ISD - In July 2008, Montcalm Area ISD and Ionia County ISD combined forces and resources to create a curriculum, instruction, and professional development consortium. The target goal of the consortium is to increase student achievement through effective leadership, communication, and greater integration of services and programming across the two counties. One of the areas of emphasis for the consortium is quality professional learning experiences for educators. Over the last 5 years, literally hundreds of teachers and administrators have taken part in workshops, book studies, professional learning communities, and blended learning options. Topics focus on a variety of issues including ongoing school improvement, the Common Core State Standards, assessment, and Tier I instruction for the core content areas. The other main focus is on communication. The consortium acts as a conduit for gathering and sharing information from around the state and well as within our counties. Each month curriculum directors gather for a round table on issues that are at the forefront of education.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS include:

- Accreditation
- Assessment
- Assistive Technology
- Behavior Support
- Career Development
- Common Core
- Compliance Services
- Career Technical Education
- Crisis Prevention Intervention
- Counseling
- Culture/Climate
- Curriculum
- Design & Technology
- Dispute Resolution
- Early Childhood
- Ed Plan
- Educational Technology
- Employment Specialist Certification
- ELA and Literacy
- ESL Bilingual
- Fine Arts
- Health
- Instruction
- Leadership
- Media Services
- Mathematics
- Medicaid
- MiBLSi
- Michigan Alliance
- Pedagogy
- Physical Education
- Preschool Inclusion
- Parent Education and Resources
- Research & Evaluation
- Response to Intervention
- Section 504
- School Improvement
- Science
- School Readiness
- Sign Language Studies
- Social Studies/Civic Education
- School Safety/Student Behavior
- Special Education Legal Updates
- START
- Transportation
- Title I
- World Language



## board of education

- Steve Foster, President
- Chris Bradshaw, Vice-President
- Bud Longnecker, Secretary
- Mark Christensen, Treasurer
- Brian Corwin, Trustee

## administration

- Dr. Scott M. Koenigsnecht  
Superintendent
- Ron Simon  
Associate Superintendent  
Finance
- Katie Flynn  
Associate Superintendent  
Special Education
- Celena Mills  
Associate Superintendent  
Career Technical Education
- Michelle Goodwin  
Associate Superintendent  
Curriculum & Instruction

## contact us

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It is the policy of MAISD that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be subjected to discrimination in any program, service, activity, or in employment for which it is responsible. Inquiries related to discrimination should be directed to the MAISD Superintendent at 621 New Street, PO Box 367, Stanton MI 48888 or by phone at 989-831-5261.

## Districts Collaborate with Each Other

- Carson City - Crystal shares bus mechanic services with another district outside of MAISD.
- Carson City - Crystal shares alternative education programming with other local districts within Montcalm County.
- Carson City - Crystal receives finance and student data software support from MAISD and Gratiot-Isabella RESD.
- Central Montcalm and Vestaburg share food service supervision.
- Lakeview and Montabella previously shared a business manager.
- Lakeview and Montabella share a food service director.
- Lakeview and Tri County share a transportation director.
- Lakeview shares support for state and federal programming with another district outside of MAISD.
- Greenville provides instructional services in non-core content to St. Charles Catholic Schools.
- Greenville shares high school coaching staff with another district outside of MAISD.
- Greenville shares a collaboration with ALIO financial management software with Tri County and another district.
- Montabella shares food services with a district outside of MAISD.
- Montabella shares technology services with Vestaburg and MAISD.
- Vestaburg shares special education services with MAISD in the positions of occupational therapist, physical therapist, and school psychologist.

