



## Case Study: how one Michigan School District uses Munetrix to meet its reporting requirements

### Debra Barry, Assistant Superintendent, Marquette Public Schools in Michigan offers an overview of her experience with Munetrix:

Marquette Public Schools uses the Munetrix platform in a variety of ways – from financial transparency and early fiscal distress indicators to mandatory reporting for emergency drill management. The district is also in the process of coordinating with its member municipalities and fellow Munetrix users for easier reporting.

Assistant Superintendent Debra Barry notes how Marquette Public Schools maximizes its use of Munetrix capabilities in the following ways:

**Peer Groups** – Marquette Public Schools set up a peer group on Munetrix to make comparisons on a variety of factors and variables, including location, student enrollment and annual budget. Munetrix provides easy-to-read charts for the community user, along with a key to explain the importance of the numbers referenced. Marquette Public Schools enters its own narratives for explaining numbers and changes as well, providing parents and engaged citizens with real-time, transparent information.

**Fiscal Distress Indicators** – Munetrix set up statewide fiscal distress indicators, and Marquette Public Schools uses the data to compare factors and assist in identifying areas of distress. Charts and narratives make it easy for the basic viewer to understand. Financial users can drill down into detailed information and perform analyses for board member consideration. The public is educated on the numbers, and districts can note the work they are doing to keep fiscal distress low.

**Mandatory Reporting Requirements** – Munetrix formats are consistent and user-friendly, making it easy for Marquette Public Schools to upload data, while ensuring compliance requirements are met. Both school board members and community members have commented on how simple it is to find information with Munetrix.

Additionally, Marquette Public Schools includes emergency drill management reporting via Munetrix to make it easy for principals to meet reporting requirements in a consistent manner and uncover any lapses in reporting and rectify them. Thanks to a testing alert sent out by Munetrix if target dates aren't met, the district can be kept compliant on drill dates and the number of drills required.

**Financial Reporting** – Munetrix not only loads audited data, but provides a helpful budget development tool that allows a district to be very transparent when creating or comparing “budget” versus “actual” on a month-by-month basis. Marquette Public Schools was recognized by Michigan’s State School superintendent for its financial reporting. The district’s use of Munetrix reporting helps reduce risk in financially stressed times. With the ability to upload files directly from the district’s software export, financial reporting with Munetrix is easy, and Munetrix programmers are quick to respond if there are questions. When it comes to ease of financial reporting, Munetrix stays on top of regulations while keeping its programs current, simple and efficient.

**Collaborative Efforts** – While Marquette Public Schools does not have a consortium for utilities/operations or benchmarking in the area, the district was able to collaborate with another Munetrix user to provide a benchmarking tool for comparisons of neighboring districts, helping to explain significant variances in utilities and custodial services.

**Additional Interfaces** – Marquette Public Schools set up EduCreations lessons with links to Facebook and Twitter accounts so the basic viewer can access a multitude of information regarding school finances from one location.

**Training** – Brief, easy-to-access and easy-to-understand Munetrix training videos and webinars keep Marquette Public Schools informed on how to use and maximize the full benefit of Munetrix.



*"I have been in school business for 16+ years and I have yet to see any software provider respond as quickly and effectively as Munetrix. They have mastered customer service and take suggestions from clients to provide a better product."*

*"I am always impressed at how well Munetrix understands the issues and seeks feedback from their clients to constantly improve. They are also very proactive in training and assisting. I cannot think of how a district could be disappointed in any way by making Munetrix its vendor of choice."*

Debra L. Barry, Marquette Area Public Schools, Assistant Superintendent

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