



## Did You Know? WMISD Special Education

Revenues have shifted away from state sources to federal sources since the 1995-96 school year.

	95-96	07-08	Difference
Local Sources	54.1%	54.6%	+ 0.5%
State Sources	36.9%	19.6%	- 17.3%
Federal Sources	9.0%	25.8%	+ 16.8%

Operates 3 classrooms for the Severely Cognitively Impaired, 6 classrooms for the Moderately Cognitively Impaired, 3 classrooms for the Severely Emotionally Impaired, and 5 half-day classroom sections of preschool (Early Childhood Special Education Programs) at no cost to our local school districts.

Allocates Special Education Preschool Teacher time to jointly serve Headstart students in the Special Services/Administration building on the campus of WMISD for two classrooms and is providing additional teacher support (using a consultative model) to the Pine River School Districts at no cost to our local school districts.

Provides School Psychologist, School Social Worker, Teacher Consultant, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Sign Language Interpreter, Orientation & Mobility, Behavior Specialist, Early On, Audiology, Adapted Technology, and other services at no cost to our local school districts.

Check our website for upcoming editions of the ISD newsletter.

## Top 10

### "New" Reasons Why "CTC is the Place to Be"

1. Teacher consultant support
2. School social worker
3. Career readiness certificates for all CTC graduates
4. Developmentally disabled students participating in job shadowing and coaching
5. Key Train assessments
6. Dual enrollment in all programs for seniors through Baker College at no cost to the student
7. Direct credit in Allied Health through Ferris State University at no cost to the student
8. Improved articulation agreements in all programs through Ferris State University
9. Improved opportunities for work-related experience from HOPE Network, North
10. Students can compete in State and National competitions



### Cummins Bridgeway Donates an Engine Training Module

By Gary Sievert, Instructor, and Tim Johnson, Assistant Instructor

Cummins Bridgeway LLC has generously donated a 2002 Cummins ISM engine training module to the Heavy Equipment Mechanics program at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center, which is valued at \$20,000. The training module will allow students to gain experience with the latest diesel engine technology. Students will learn to troubleshoot electronic engine controls and exhaust emission systems that are currently used on today's vehicles.

### Students Build A Home for Habitat for Humanity

By Frank Tilmann, Instructor, and Donna Waddell, Assistant Instructor

The Wexford Habitat for Humanity conducted a ground-breaking ceremony on Wednesday, October 1, 2008. Through a partnership between Habitat for Humanity and the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center, students from the Building Trades program will construct the home throughout the school year. This will be the 5th home that students have built for the families selected by the Habitat for Humanity.



### School Funding How State and Federal Funds Impact WMISD Schools

By Scott Crosby, ISD Superintendent



Our State Education system shifted primary funding of Education from local property tax to state sales tax with the passage of proposal A in 1994. State funding is not that simple. We earmarked the sales tax increase, a portion of property tax, some income tax, and other taxes, including all of the Michigan Lottery to fund our state Education system. For perspective, the lottery only makes up about 6% of the total state funding for Education.

This year, for the second consecutive year, the legislature has put in place what is called the 2x formula. Simply put this means those local school districts at the lowest level of state funding (all of ours) got two times the increase in the base foundation grant per student as did those districts at the top of the state funding list. By doing this, the gap closes between the lowest funded school districts and those districts at the top. The truth is we still have schools getting more than \$ 12,000 per student (mostly located in southeastern Michigan) and about half the state (and all of our WMISD districts) getting the lowest funding level per student at just \$7,316 per student.

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#### WMISD Board of Education

- William Sparks—President
- Dr. Garold Koester—Vice-President
- Chris McCrimmon—Treasurer
- Dean Smallegan—Secretary
- Harold Kibbe—Trustee
- Daryl Morr—Trustee
- Jackie Ruppel—Trustee

#### Inside this Issue:

- Did You Know?
- What's New In Early Childhood
- Why CTC is the "Place to Be"
- Cummins Bridgeway donation to the CTC
- Habitat for Humanity ground-breaking

#### Personal Curriculum

By Lisa Bannon, Supervisor of General Education

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) encompasses one of the most comprehensive sets of high school graduation requirements in the country. These graduation requirements were put in place to better prepare students for greater post-secondary success and help secure the economic future in Michigan.

For many students, the new graduation requirements will be rigorous, relevant, and attainable. However, there will be some at-risk students and students who qualify for special education services that will find the increased demands difficult to attain. Local school boards can offer students a Personal Curriculum option under section 1278b of the MMC law, allowing for minor modifications to the MMC. Personal Curriculums must be initiated by a student's parent or guardian and incorporate as much of the MMC subject area content as possible. A committee must meet to establish appropriate curriculum modifications and measurable goals that the student must achieve while enrolled in high school.

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#### WMISD Mission Statement

The mission of the Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District is to provide high quality educational and support services requested by its constituent local districts whereby each district can more effectively meet the educational needs of its students and citizens.

### Reaching ALL Students

Area Wide In-Service  
By Wanita Kampmueller, Instructional Consultant

On November 3, 2008, educators from each local school district, Wexford-Missaukee General Education, Career Technical Center and Special Services will work together during the WMISD area wide in-service. The in-service will be hosted at the Cadillac High School and Junior High School from 8:30-3:30. The educators will work in grade span teams and participate in each of the three sessions.

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### 403(b) Changes

By Tom Armstrong, Director of Business Services

You have probably already heard about changes to employee funded retirement accounts provided by school districts. The accounts are commonly called 403 (b) accounts or tax sheltered annuities. Last year the Internal Revenue Service issued final regulations to further regulate these accounts. The regulations require greater record keeping and oversight of these accounts by districts offering them.

In September 2007, WMISD began working with a group of intermediate school districts in Northern Michigan to provide guidance and documents to local school districts regarding these regulations. This group provided a common plan document for each local district and worked collectively, with all vendors offered by the group. This first phase of dealing with the new regulations is nearing an end.

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## School Funding

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Local districts may seek a bond issue to build new facilities or they may seek a sinking fund that must be earmarked to improve facility infrastructure such as roofs, boilers, or paving. The other option for a local district to increase funding is to do it cooperatively across an Intermediate School District region but then again, the funding must be defined for specific purposes and it must pass by an overall popular vote across the region. Local districts can no longer seek a tax increase for general operational purposes.

Schools get most of their federal funding through the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, most recently called No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This funding changed significantly with NCLB in recent years and is ready to change again significantly. In 1965 there were four federal funding titles and three grant programs. With No Child Left Behind (enacted in 2002) we now have eleven federal funding titles and ninety-three grant programs.

Following the November election look for No Child Left Behind to be renamed and reworked in 2009. Should John McCain get elected you will see more focus on school choice, and with Barack Obama we will see more focus on teacher development. Obama is more likely to increase federal Education spending and McCain is more likely to maintain funding closer to the same levels. It appears both candidates will look to change the emphasis of No Child Left Behind from all students to targeting those based on need.

We probably won't see enough revenues to meet expenditure needs for fuel, food, instructional needs, technology changes, or staff related costs, without continued structural changes within our schools. As an ISD, if we plan to develop appropriate collaborative activities that create efficiencies and save local districts time and money, while improving quality, we can all serve children better in the years to come. In any case, it appears that adequate school funding will be a significant challenge for at least the next three years.

## 403(b) Changes

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This past summer our group joined a consortium based around several west Michigan intermediate school districts and went through an extensive process to choose a Third Party Administrator (TPA) for the group. Due to the very size of the consortium, we were able to negotiate an extremely good price for the TPA services.






Local districts are just now joining the consortium and beginning to offer the TPA investment products to their staff. The staff will benefit from significantly lower sales charges, annual fees and surrender fees. The use of these products will help to enhance retirement savings by paying lower fees. As a result of the regulations, some vendors have decided not to offer investment products to schools. If you are currently using one of those companies you may need to choose a new vendor for your investments. The good news is that your new vendor should offer investments with lower fees.



## Personal Curriculum

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### Allowable Personal Curriculum Modifications:

-  Algebra II to be taken over two years earning two credits
-  ½ credit of Algebra II in Career Tech or stop with a ½ credit of Algebra II
-  Reduced credit of social studies, physical education, health, and visual performing and applied arts credits in order to take more Math, Science, English Language Arts, or World Languages
-  For a student with a disability, a district may consider modification to any MMC content expectation made necessary by the student's disability (modifications must be consistent with the student's learning ability)
-  Except for students with a disability, the legislation does not allow for modifications in the following areas: Science, Civics, English Language Arts, World Languages, and On-line experience



**Students Having Fun!**  
(Doug Olson's classroom for students with moderate cognitive impairments at Mackinaw Trail Middle School)

## What's New in Early Childhood

By Liz Walker and Maria Reynolds



The Wexford-Missaukee ISD has recently added two new positions to support Early Childhood Education.

Liz Walker is an Instructional Consultant for Early Childhood. She has a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and has been a preschool and kindergarten teacher, a director of a Michigan School Readiness Program, and a K-12 Literacy Consultant at the WMISD.

Maria Reynolds has assumed the new position, Special Education Supervisor. She will be addressing preschool issues in center based programs and in the local districts. Maria has 30 years of experience, including 20 years as a preschool consultant, Project Find Coordinator, and Infant Toddler teacher. She has a Master's in Special Education with an emphasis in Early Childhood.

WMISD staff have been working in collaboration with local schools and the community to support the WMISD Board Goal: "Within 3 – 5 years all children within WMISD service area will enter kindergarten with skills that will allow them to meet the needs of the new grade level content expectations".

With that goal in mind, the Early Childhood Leadership Team was developed last year. During the first year, the goals that have been accomplished include speech and language screening for all preschoolers, opening more preschool classrooms, providing professional development for preschool teachers, and developing a web page.

There have also been many other changes in Early Childhood Special Education at the WMISD. Some of the exciting changes include:

\*The Early Childhood Special Education Programs (ECSE), which are housed in the Special Services building in Cadillac, have expanded their school day to three hour sessions.

\*Two Head Start classrooms at the 13<sup>th</sup> Street location have become ISD partners in a collaborative effort by fully including six ECSE students and staff in each classroom.

\*Pine River School District has elected to keep their ECSE students included in their local preschool programs with the support of an ECSE Teacher Consultant for support three half days a week.

## Did You Know? Career Technical Center

- CTC has an annual enrollment of approximately 500 students
- All 13 CTC programs are state-approved
- CTC is funded by a local property tax millage (largest portion), State and Federal grants
- CTC is funded by a local property tax millage (largest portion), State and Federal grants
- Local districts within the Wexford-Missaukee ISD send their students to the CTC at no cost
- CTC has a full service Work-Based Learning Office to encourage students to explore career options through job shadowing, work exploration and co-operative education
- All CTC seniors have an opportunity for dual enrolled credit through Baker College at no cost to the student

## Reaching ALL Students Area Wide In-Service

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1.Cathy Hamilton will lead a discussion around concepts of equity and dignity for all people and the assurance that continuous learning moves us further along that journey.

2.Mark Foseid, a member of Marzano and Associates, will work with the educators to provide accurate student feedback and encourage students to progress toward the achievement of standards and expectations.

3.Nicole Vagle and the educators will work together on Balanced Assessment using Stiggins 5 Keys to Quality Assessment. Each teacher is asked to bring an assessment that they use in the classroom or an assessment they are developing. This work will provide an opportunity to increase the effectiveness of formative and summative assessments for the classroom.



## Area Wide In-Service Schedule

**8:00-8:30**

Registration and Refreshments  
(Cadillac HS Auditorium Lobby)

**8:30-10:25**

Auditorium—Grades 9-12 (Cathy Hamilton)  
HS Cafeteria—Grades 5-8 (Nicole Vagle)  
JH Gym—Grades 1-4 (Mark Foseid)

**10:25-10:40**

Break/Transition

**10:40-12:30**

Auditorium—Grades 1-4 (Cathy Hamilton)  
HS Cafeteria—Grades 9-12 (Nicole Vagle)  
JH Gym—Grades 5-8 (Mark Foseid)

**12:35-1:35**

Lunch at the JH and HS Cafeterias

**1:35—3:30**

Auditorium—Grades 5-8 (Cathy Hamilton)  
HS Cafeteria—Grades 1-4 (Nicole Vagle)  
JH Gym—Grades 9-12 (Mark Foseid)

*\*Preschool and Kindergarten will meet at Baker College.*