

CALHOUN INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT RANKS HIGH WITH STATEWIDE COLLABORATION EFFORTS

I would like to share with you some information regarding your Calhoun Intermediate School District (CISD) and its role in the collaborative model. In the Spring of 2008, Intermediate School Districts (ISD's) across the State were required (pursuant to PA 63) by the Michigan Legislature to provide a summary of our collaboration initiatives with constituent (local) school districts. The information was then aggregated for the State of Michigan by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) and submitted to the Legislature.

CISD's report documented our mission in providing numerous cost-effective and efficient services to our local school districts as well as being innovative in providing need-based services in a collaborative manner. This was the central purpose for which ISD's were created in 1962.

CISD was among the highest, in terms of full implementation, in our collaborative projects in most of the 11 categories in which we were asked to report.

Our report documented collaboration in the following areas:

Technology, Human Resources, Finance, Curriculum and Assessment, Special Education, Work Force Development, Pupil Accounting and Truancy, and Career and Technical Education.

This reporting requirement was beneficial in several ways by:

- Providing documentation of the collaboration that exists in our ISD
- Yielding a foundation from which we can focus on continuous improvement as well as gauging customer satisfaction
- Suggesting some areas in which we can discuss future collaboration.

Over the course of the past several years, the unique roles of ISDs have been a point of discussion in Lansing. We welcome this probative and reflective dialogue as it is not foreign to how we do business. Along with the increased transparency that the legislation encouraged, it also created a forum for accountability...which as an organization we welcome. As we reviewed this aggregated report, CISD was able to see that we are among the most efficient and collaborative Intermediate School Districts in Michigan.

I share this information with you because it is important for you to know that in an era of sustained fiscal crises, we as an organization are providing collaborative support and services to the 13 local school districts that we serve in a cost efficient and streamlined manner. Two most recent examples include your CISD forming a consortium with the 13 local districts to contain legal costs. In addition, your CISD has collaborative agreements with both the Branch and Barry Intermediate School Districts. These partnerships increase our local capacity without increased CISD costs and enable all involved to improve the quality of services provided to our students.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (269) 789-2450 or lungert@calhounisd.org if you have any further questions, or if you would like a copy of this document.

JANUARY IS SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH

Hats off to the 13 school boards that serve the 25,941 students of Calhoun County.

Your commitment and support of the educational process and student achievement does not go unnoticed and is very much appreciated.