

Annual Report *to Schools & Community* 2008-09





It is with a great deal of pride and satisfaction that we present this Annual Report. Thanks to the work and support of our staff, schools, and community partners, we continued to add value to public education through our leadership, programs, and services.

Student achievement topped our priority list in 2008-09. Hundreds of educators from throughout our

region learned about research-based instructional strategies through dozens of interactive professional workshops. Highly skilled MAISD consultants provided one-on-one support and customized trainings for those schools identified as “high priority.” These same consultants assisted all districts as they aligned their curriculums with the latest state standards and implemented a variety of teaching techniques. The MAISD provided direct student services through career and technical education at the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC), specialized teaching at Wesley School, advanced and accelerated classes, hands-on math and science programs, visual and performing arts experiences, assistive technology, and life skills training.

A close second priority was to partner with districts to add value during these tight financial times. The MAISD helped schools realize lower prices by cooperatively purchasing everything from buses to laptops. We provided leadership, training, data management services, and financial support to help make critical technology affordable for all schools. Grant funding was generated for a number of initiatives that positively impacted education, including: Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana, Teaching American History, The Great Lakes Fishery Trust, Michigan Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative, Career Preparation, REAL Science, Reading First, and the West Michigan Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Innovation Fund.

I invite you to explore this report more deeply to uncover the many other ways that we enhanced the efforts of our schools during the 2008-09 school year.

Sincerely,

Susan W. Meston, Ph.D.
Superintendent



2008-09 Board Members

Peggy E. Scouten, President
John Swanson, Vice President
Edward Garner, Secretary
Donna J. Fiebelkorn, Ed.D., Treasurer
Dwight Vines, Trustee

MAISD Mission

The MAISD provides the **leadership, programs, and services** which complement and enhance the efforts of constituent school districts in extending educational opportunities to all students. The MAISD operates the Educational Services Center, Wesley School, Head Start[®] of Muskegon/Oceana, the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, and the Regional Mathematics & Science Center.

Constituent School Districts

Fruitport Community Schools
Holton Public Schools
Mona Shores Public Schools
Montague Area Public Schools
Muskegon Public Schools
Muskegon Heights Public Schools
North Muskegon Public Schools
Oakridge Public Schools
Orchard View Schools
Ravenna Public Schools
Reeths-Puffer Schools
Whitehall District Schools

Special Education Services

Special Education Services

During the last school year, **5,102** students with special needs benefited from MAISD special education services.

Special Education Professional Development

- **739** school staff members participated in trainings in **27** topic areas
- **100** teachers were trained in the State Performance Plan Indicators related to graduation, dropout prevention, transition guidelines in the Individual Education Plan, and post-school outcomes
- **75** teachers and paraprofessionals attended one of three *Autism Spectrum Disorder* trainings
- **40** school staff attended *Systematic Supervision*
- **40** school staff were trained in Social Emotional Language Literacy
- **38** teachers were trained on the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention
- **17** paraprofessionals attended a day-long training to learn how to better support students with special needs



Wesley School students and staff helped create wheelchair artwork in May 2009.

Assistive Technology

The MAISD provided free assistive technology support and loaned materials to school staff. **19** school staff attended six *Book of the Month* professional book study sessions. In addition, schools received free software, training for **40** staff, and reimbursement for guest teachers.

Learning & Behavior Support

The MAISD provided training, materials, and coaching for **24** elementary schools participating in *Michigan's Integrated Learning and Behavior Support Initiative (MiBLSi)*. A grant from the Michigan Department of Education funded MiBLSi for the past five years.

Online Curriculum Resources for Students with Special Needs

The MAISD provided:

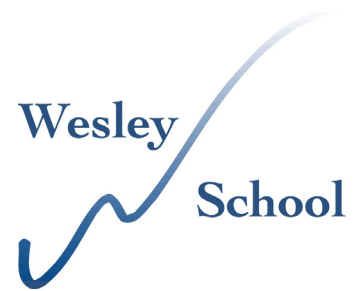
- **60** subscriptions for the *News-2-You-Weekly Online Newspaper* for county Special Education classrooms
- **20** subscriptions to *Unique Learning System*
- **53** subscriptions for *Reading A-Z*
- **12** subscriptions to *RAZ Kids* to support literacy and fluency

Early On[®]

Early On[®] served **349** children under age three and their families who live in Muskegon County. **1,692** home visits were conducted with these children who experience an established condition and/or developmental delays.

Medicaid Reimbursement

The MAISD helped schools recapture dollars used to serve eligible special education students through a program with Medicaid.



During the 2008-09 school year, **194** students with severe physical and/or cognitive impairments attended Wesley School.

Of those students, **80** (ages 17-26) benefited from one of **6** transition classroom experiences that included critical life skills.

Wesley Staff Training

Wesley staff were trained in **25** topic areas, including:

- *Assessment and Accountability*
- *Effective Strategies for Classroom Behavior Management*
- *Evidence-Based Supported Employment*
- *Literacy Instruction and Curriculum Access*
- *School Improvement Frameworks*
- *Second Steps Social Skills*
- *Statewide Curriculum*
- *Therapeutic Crisis Intervention*
- *Transition Performance Indicators*

Work Experience Program

The *Community Work Experience Program* offers older students an opportunity to gain valuable work skills training at a variety of staffed work sites. During the 2008-09 school year, **67** students participated in community-based work training at **16** different sites. **27** students were involved in part-time paid employment in the community.

Career & Technical Education and Business & Technology Services



748 students chose to participate in career and technical education courses by enrolling in one of **20** programs provided by the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC).

Business Connections

The MACTC placed **43** students in internships and **131** students in day-on-the-job opportunities in local businesses and organizations. **11** students were paid to work through cooperative education agreements.

During the 2008-09 school year, **42** educators participated in the after-school *Educator in the Workplace* program developed by the MAISD and the Muskegon Area Chamber of Commerce.



Student Organizations

196 students participated in *Career & Technical Student Organizations*. Of these students, **10** qualified for national competitions.

Pupil Accounting

The MAISD helped public schools maximize their state aid revenues by offering official pupil accounting auditing services, training, and consultation regarding current laws, rules, and procedures.

MAISD staff visited and performed on-site audits for **13** programs in **9** schools during the 2008 fall semester and **17** programs in **10** schools during the 2009 spring semester.

Guest Teacher Registry

1,101 teachers registered through the countywide online guest teacher registry.

Document Center

The MAISD Document Center serves over **100** external customers, including local school districts and nonprofit organizations. Full-color and black/white printing, along with finishing services, are completed in the center. During the 2008-09 school year, the Document Center printed over **359,000** color impressions and **3,800,000** black and white impressions.

Cooperative Purchasing

School districts in Muskegon County saved **\$699,539 (33%)** off educational pricing on their purchases during the 2008 calendar year through Regional Educational Media Center 4's (REMC4) cooperative purchasing program.

Road Tests

The MAISD administered **1,359** road tests in 2008-09.

Data Warehouse

The MAISD provides support and training for educators as they use a countywide data warehouse to track student achievement and strive to improve learning. The data warehouse contains over **80** reports in over **10** different data sets like MEAP, MME (Michigan Merit Exam), ACT and more.

MUNIS Financial System

The MAISD continues to train and support districts as they transition to Tyler Technologies' MUNIS financial and human resource product suites. The MAISD and **5** districts have completed the transition and training so far.

Technology Trainings

Technology trainings were attended by **207** school staff, including multiple courses on *MOODLE*, a free software e-learning platform that helps educators create online courses. In addition, **105** teachers from **7** districts took advantage of a series of **6** customized technology integration trainings. In 2008-09, the MAISD hosted **30** webinars sponsored by the International Society for Technology in Education.

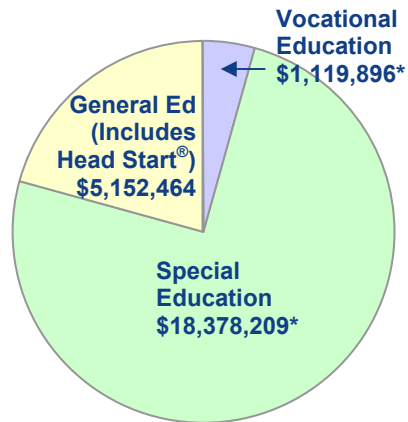
Instructional Management

MAISD Technology Services managed **33,799** student records, generated report cards, and provided training and support to school staff in seven counties. In addition, the MAISD managed **12,903** employee records and generated pay checks/deposit slips for those employees. An annual MAISD contribution of more than **\$1 million** kept REMC services and data processing costs lower than that of any other ISD offering the same breadth of services.

Total Dollars Distributed to Local Schools

For the 2008-09 school year, over a third of the MAISD actual expenditures were in fact monies that were dispersed to local schools.

As of June 30, 2009, the MAISD distributed **\$24,650,569*** from local, state, and federal funds under the following headings: General Education (includes Head Start), Special Education, and Vocational Education.



Special Education

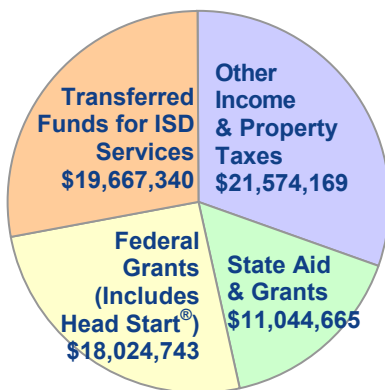
In 2008-09 local school boards contracted with the MAISD for special education transportation.

The MAISD generated an additional **\$1.6 million*** in revenue for local districts due to a higher state reimbursement rate.

In 2008-09, local schools in Muskegon County paid **\$39.6 million*** for special education. Even with federal dollars and state aid, grants and other funding, schools had to cover a **\$15.7 million*** shortfall with general education dollars. **Unaudited Numbers*

2008-09 Budgeted Revenues \$70,310,917

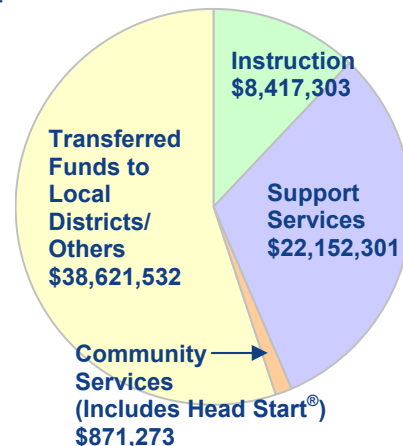
Revenues are generated through a variety of resources, including, but not limited to: federal and state grants, state aid, property taxes, registrations, fees for services, local foundations, and transfers from other entities, including local school districts. The MAISD generated **\$29,069,408**, or nearly half of its 2008-09 revenues, from federal grants, state aid, and state grants combined.



2008-09 detailed budget figures are available by calling 231-767-7207 or by e-mailing mdemetri@muskegonisd.org

2008-09 Budgeted Expenditures \$70,062,409

Expenditures support continued operations in four basic areas: data processing, instructional services, special education, and business services. Support services to local districts are provided for centralized accounting, student records, educational/training, consulting, and special education. The MAISD operates Wesley School, the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center, Head Start® of Muskegon/Oceana, and the MAISD Regional Mathematics and Science Center. Per state guidelines, expenditures are reported using the categories shown.



Early Childhood Education and Instructional Services

Early Childhood Conference

216 early childhood educators attended the *2008 MAISD Early Childhood Conference*

Resources for Parents

The Great Parents/Great Start grant funded the following in 2008-09:

- **2,000** English and **60** Spanish newborn packets given away through local hospitals
- **500** early development kits distributed to families of infants through health care providers
- *Family Literacy Series* offered in **4** districts that were attended by more than **60** families
- Catholic Charities' Healthy Families program that provided intensive services to young families
- *Reach Out & Read*, an early literacy program at Muskegon Family Care

Head Start®

Public schools located in Muskegon and Oceana counties served **1,048** students in Head Start® in 2008-09 and maintained a waiting list as high as **265** children during the school year. The MAISD serves as the federal grantee for the free preschool program for income-eligible students.

Great Start Readiness Program

The MAISD secured **36** Great Start Readiness Program preschool slots which were distributed to three local school districts.

Infant Massage

34 parents and school staff attended free Infant Massage classes provided by the MAISD.

Professional Development Instructional Services

The MAISD offered professional development programs in **97** topic areas related to instruction during the 2008-09 school year.

Here are highlights of selected instructional programs offered:

- **276** teachers participated in the *Writing Units of Study* workshop
- **135** school staff attended the *PEAK Summer Institute for Effective Instruction and Assessment*
- **101** teachers and school administrators attended *Crisis Team Training*
- **69** teachers attended the *Home Grown Summer Institute on Writing*
- **66** teachers participated in one of four *Michigan Model* trainings
- **64** teachers attended *Education Through Music*
- **50** teachers attended the *Words Their Way* workshop
- **46** school administrators attended a training on *Differentiated Instruction*
- **39** teachers attended a *Benchmark Assessment 3rd - 5th Grade* workshop



Students involved in a Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative project

Professional Development Instructional Services (Continued...)

- **37** teachers attended a *Middle School Writing* workshop
- **26** teachers attended a training on *Local Resources for Social Studies Expectations*
- **25** teachers attended the *Art Avenues* workshop
- **25** high school math and science teachers participated in *Inquiry in Instruction* workshops
- **25** teachers attended the *Virtual Economics* training
- **24** chemistry and biology teachers from Muskegon, Newaygo, and Ottawa counties participated in the *2009 REsources for Authentic Learning (REAL) Science Academy* in June
- **17** teachers attended *Writing Units—Breathing Life into Essays*
- **16** teachers participated in a *History Alive* training
- **14** chemistry and biology teachers participated in the five-day *REAL Science Summer Academy* in July 2008
- **17** teachers took part in the *WG Jackson Excursion* as part of the *Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative*
- **12** teachers participated in the *Michigan Merit Exam Spring 2009 Video Conference*
- **11** teachers attended a workshop on *Visual Thinking Strategies for Students*

Added Support for High Priority Schools

3 school buildings identified as high priority by the Michigan Department of Education were supported by MAISD consultants and received customized support and training on site.

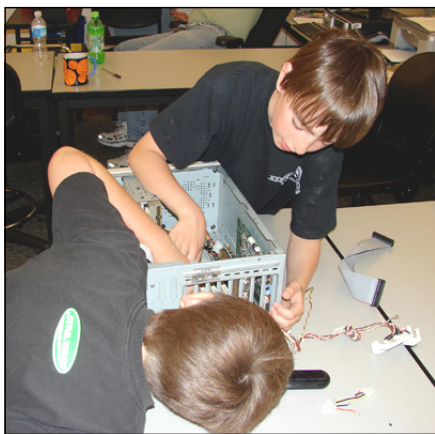
Career Exploration and Student Programs

Career Readiness

2,523 11th graders and staff from **25** area high schools, representing Muskegon, Ottawa, Oceana, and Newaygo counties, attended the High School Career Fair at L.C. Walker Arena. **94** careers were represented, as well as **49** post-secondary institutions and the military.

Middle School Career Pathways Exploration Days

1,706 students, **66** parents, **89** school staff, and **90** volunteer presenters attended the *Middle School Career Pathways Exploration Days* over the course of two days.



MACTC Summer Fun

This summer **178** middle school students in Muskegon County took advantage of the four-day Summer Fun program offered by the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center.

Career Exploration

Over **15,000** middle school, high school, and college students in Muskegon and Oceana counties had access to the Career Cruising software provided by the MAISD. The software was used to initiate Educational Development Plans (EDPs) and explore career options for students in grades 7 through 12.

Leadership Training

107 students attended the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) leadership training seminar.

Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative Youth Symposium

38 students presented their classes' environmental place-based education project to other students, educators, and community partners.

Michigan Aerospace Challenge

820 students from across Michigan participated in this experience that offered upper elementary, middle and high school students an exciting way to engage in hands-on, real-world science, math and technology using model rocketry.

West Michigan Science Challenge

101 students worked in teams or as individuals to develop science experiments that solved problems in the areas of mathematics, science and engineering. Projects were judged by volunteer experts.

Amusement Park Physics

1,322 middle school students applied their math skills and knowledge of physics principles to solve problems in the real-world setting of an amusement park.

Maple Ridge School

560 elementary-age students attended class at the historic one-room school after their teachers attended a training workshop and were given curriculum and support.

Reality Store

885 middle and high school students participated in the *Reality Store* experience that involved a check book, bills, and unexpected “real-life” challenges.



WINGS—Widening Interests Through New Experiences for Gifted Students

225 students attended week-long summer

classes for advanced and accelerated students.

Musical & Cultural Performances

- **4,087** students, teachers, and parents attended *Fumbelina*, an opera written for children
- **844** students attended performances by *An Da Union*, 14 young and dynamic musicians from Inner Mongolia
- **433** students attended a performance by internationally known pianist *Yakov Kasman*, and **200** students attended a performance by the *New York String Orchestra*, thanks to a partnership with the Muskegon Community Concerts Association

Expressions 2009—Student Art Exhibit

Over **381** students participated in the annual *Student Art Exhibit* at the Muskegon Museum of Art. The exhibit was co-sponsored by the MAISD and the Muskegon Museum of Art.

2,070 students, parents, and school staff attended one of four *Student Art Exhibit* receptions at the museum.

Community Initiatives

The MAISD partners with schools, businesses, governmental agencies and community organizations in order to provide a variety of ongoing initiatives that benefit the residents of Muskegon County. Here are a few examples for 2008-09:

Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative

The MAISD received a continuation grant award of **\$175,000** from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust to maintain and enhance a West Michigan Hub for place-based education and environmental stewardship. Local partnerships are a critical part of this project.

Shaping Positive Lifestyles and Attitudes Through School Health (SPLASH) Grant

SPLASH is an initiative of the Michigan Nutrition Network Collaborative Partner Program. It's purpose is to bring quality nutrition and physical education to Michigan's low income schools. Last year the MAISD assisted districts in coordinating education activities and reimbursed districts in Muskegon, Newaygo, and Oceana counties **\$70,580** for supplies, training and outreach efforts.

REAL Science

The MAISD received grant funding of **\$99,910** from the West Michigan STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Education Innovation Fund Initiative to expand REAL (**RE**sources for **A**uthentic **L**earning) Science in a region that now includes Muskegon, Ottawa, and Newaygo counties. The program provides professional development and support for teachers, and makes the latest analytical instruments available for high school students to learn modern laboratory science.

Student-Built "Green" Homes

The Muskegon Area Career Tech Center students constructed **2** local homes that meet US Green Building Council guidelines. The homes incorporate many environmentally friendly features and were constructed under the direction of industry-certified instructors.

Equity and Diversity

14 MAISD office staff and educators attended the Institute for Healing Racism. **45** additional MAISD employees have completed the Institute experience.

Intermediate School Districts

The MAISD is one of 57 intermediate school districts or regional educational service agencies created by the legislature in 1962 to bring about quality and equitable educational opportunities to students and schools throughout the state. The MAISD served approximately 32,685 kindergarten through twelfth grade and adult students during 2008-09.

ISDs accomplish this mission in a number of ways namely,

1. Creating and promoting economies of scale through such programs as cooperative purchasing and special education services;
2. Sharing current and credible research, best practices, and innovation through initiatives like the fiber project and professional development; and
3. Providing oversight and liaison roles through such programs as Head Start of Muskegon/Oceana and the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center (MACTC).

The MAISD is guided by a local board of education elected by board members from the constituent districts. The MAISD enjoys strong working partnerships with constituent public school districts, and charter and non-public schools. Together we maximize resources, share best practices, solve problems, and save time and money.

The MAISD facilitates the cooperative work of superintendents, business directors, human resource managers, accounting/payroll staff, special education directors, principals, teachers, curriculum directors, technology directors, media specialists, Title I staff, early childhood staff, nurses, transportation and maintenance/operations directors from throughout the county for professional development, networking, and problem solving.



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