



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 27, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Report on the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Pursuant to Section 380.1711 of the School Code of 1976, each Intermediate School District (ISD) must develop, establish, continually evaluate, and modify its Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services (Plan). Approval indicates that the ISD's and local constituent districts' special education programs and services described in the Plan meet standards which are consistent with federal and state requirements. Approval also allows ISDs to receive reimbursement pursuant to the State School Aid Act.

Staff has reviewed, and I have approved, the Montcalm Area Intermediate School District Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services. Attachment A is a summary of the changes from the previously approved Montcalm Area Intermediate School District Plan.

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606 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
www.michigan.gov/mde • (517) 373-3324

MONTCALM AREA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT PLAN FOR THE DELIVERY OF SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES SUMMARY

The Montcalm Area Intermediate School District requests the review of the following modifications to our county plan.

1832(e) Autism Spectrum Disorder Programs: We would like to add the following to our plan: *"Autism Spectrum Disorder Programs will follow R340.158a except for Rule 58(a). Elementary and secondary classrooms shall not have more than 7 students. However, programs consisting of more than 1 classroom may have more than 7 students if the average student to teacher ratio does not exceed 7 to 1. A classroom with 3 or more students shall have 1 para-educator. A classroom with 7 or more at a time shall have 2 Para-educators."*

Rationale: The MAISD presently has three classrooms that serve county students. We have an elementary, a middle school and a high school classroom. We have found that as our population changes and as we increase support for students in the general education setting, the need for classrooms and staffing change. Last year, for instance, we had 4 students in the middle school ASD classroom, 6 students in the high school and 7 students in each of our two elementary classrooms. Each classroom had at least one Para educator with some classroom having 4 Para educators, depending upon the needs of the students. This school year, because of the success of some of our ASD students learning in the general education setting, and the change in grade levels, we only needed one ASD room at each level. Presently we have 11 students, 3 teachers and 9 Para educators. We are committed to providing appropriate service to our students. Changing the plan to meet the needs of up to seven ASD students with additional adult support gives our programs flexibility without having to hire additional teachers for a few students.

Administration of Programs and Services: We would like to add the following to our plan: *"the MAISD will serve students residing within the MAISD boundaries. Act 18 monies will not be used to pay for educational costs for students who receive services outside the jurisdiction of the ISD as a result of Schools of Choice."*

Rationale: The above statement protects Act 18 funds within our ISD. It keeps the funding for students who attend school within the ISD boundaries. At this time, there is no significant impact.