



Lewis Cass Intermediate School District **School Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter**

August 18, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) for Brookside Learning Center (BLC) which provides key information on our 2010-2011 educational progress. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Peter Bennett, director of Brookside Learning Center, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <http://www.lewiscassisd.org/> or you may review a copy from the principal's office at your child's school.

For 2010-2011, Brookside Learning Center and North Pointe Center made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) in English language arts and mathematics. While we are pleased to have reached this important goal, we are continuously working to improve. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

State law requires that we also report this additional information.

1. Enrollment Process:

BLC works with Cass County local districts to provide center based programs and services to students, as determined through the IEP process. BLC does not enroll students independent of local district involvement. If an individual family is interested in programming at BLC, their first contact should be with the local special education director.

2. Status of the School Improvement Plan:

BLC just completed the first year of a 5 year School Improvement Plan with the following goals:

- a. **Goal #1 (Literacy):** Students will demonstrate progress in one or more areas of English Language Arts based on the Mi-Access assessments, IEP progress reports and benchmark and progress monitoring formative assessments.
- b. **Goal #2 (Math):** Students will demonstrate progress in the area of math based on the Mi-Access assessments, IEP progress reports and benchmark and progress monitoring formative assessments.
- c. **Goal #3 (Behavior):** All students will demonstrate improved behavior resulting in the formation of healthy relationships through use of Positive Behavior Supports as evidenced by SWIS data and individual behavior plans.

These goals are aligned to the Curriculum and also support our Vision, Mission and Beliefs:

VISION (WHY)

"We challenge all preconceived notions of what a child can do, enabling each student to discover and achieve their goals."

MISSION (HOW)

At Brookside Learning Center we will utilize the following strategies to realize our Vision:

- (1) Match resources to needs
- (2) Use a problem solving framework
- (3) Use a comprehensive data system to identify each student's point of instruction and continually monitor student progress to inform instructional changes
- (4) Instruct our students in a variety of learning and life experiences with a relentless focus on skill building in the areas of:

- Academics
 - Social/Emotional
 - Communication
 - Life skills
 - Technology
 - Job training
- (5) Contribute to a professional learning community in which we:
- Participate in a shared leadership model for decision making.
 - Seek and provide ongoing training, coaching, and support in using evidence-based practices
 - Work collaboratively and encourage each other to continually improve our teaching practices
 - Engage in continuous school improvement

BELIEF STATEMENTS

North Pointe Center and Brookside Learning Center operate programs in which:

- We believe that all students can learn.
- There are no limits set by disability or resources of community.
- We will be relentless in building students' skills.
- Our students will achieve the greatest outcomes when students, parents, educators, community members, and administrators work collaboratively.

3. School Description:

BLC serves students in Cass County who are eligible to receive services under the categories of moderate and severe cognitive impairments, severe multiple impairments, autism spectrum disorders, emotional impairments and traumatic brain injuries. BLC staff work with local districts and families to provide center-based programs and services to students, as determined through the IEP process. BLC does not enroll students independent of local district involvement. Children who attend BLC are between the ages of 3 and 26.

Our programs are located in the following facilities: Brookside Learning Center at 61662 Dailey Rd. Cassopolis, Mi. 49031; North

Pointe Center at 704 N. Orchard Dowagiac, Mi. 49047; and at Cassopolis Public Schools at 22721 Diamond Cove Rd. Cassopolis, Mi. 49031. These programs are operated by the Lewis Cass Intermediate School District.

BLC also offers transition programs for young adults, ages 18-26, who have not completed their transition requirements and qualify for continuing special education services through the Lewis Cass Intermediate School District. The Lewis Cass Intermediate School District services around 110 students in multiple buildings located in Cass County.

4. Core Curriculum:

BLC's curriculum was created in cooperation with multiple center-based programs throughout the state of Michigan. The BLC's Participation and Supported Independence Curricula have a primary focus of promoting optimal independent skills for students. Areas of focus include personal care, health and fitness, leisure and productivity, domestic activities, social interactions, vocational skills, communication, community, mobility, group situations, unexpected events/ potential harmful situations, time management, self determination, and the core academic areas of math, English language arts, science, social studies, and technology. The BLC's curriculum is aligned to the Michigan Curriculum Frameworks. Individual student focus is determined at their Individualized Education Planning Meeting.

For students in the emotionally impaired program who follow the general and functional independence curricula, we utilize the Oakland County curriculum, which is aligned to the state grade level and high school content expectations (soon to become common core standards).

The extended grade level content expectations for students at BLC http://www.mi.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-22709_28463-194379--,00.html

BLC Curriculum Supports can be found at: <http://maase.pbworks.com/P-SI+Curriculum>

If interested in reviewing a hard copy of the above, please contact the main office.

5. Student Assessment Data:

In 2009, 47 students participated in the MI-Access and MEAP assessments for English Language Arts, Math and Science.

**MEAP and Mi-Access Fall 2009 and Spring 2010
Students Tested by Age and Type of Assessment**

Mi-Access	Grade 3 Age 9	Grade 4 Age 10	Grade 5 Age 11	Grade 6 Age 12	Grade 7 Age 13	Grade 8 Age 14	Grade 11 Age 17	Total
FI	1	1		5	2	4	5	18
SI	3	3	2	2		1	1	12
P	4	2					1	7
MEAP	1	1			3	3	2	10
Total Students	9	7	2	7	5	8	9	47

P=Participation
S=Supported Independence
FI=Functional Independence

In 2010, 39 students participated in the MI-Access and MEAP assessments for English Language Arts, Math and Science.

**MEAP and Mi-Access Fall 2010 and Spring 2011
Students Tested by Age and Type of Assessment**

Mi-Access	Grade 3 Age 9	Grade 4 Age 10	Grade 5 Age 11	Grade 6 Age 12	Grade 7 Age 13	Grade 8 Age 14	Grade 11 Age 17	Total
FI	3		2	1	5	1	2	14
SI		2	3	2	1			8
P		4	2	0			1	7
MEAP		3	1	1	1	3	1	10
Total Students	3	9	8	4	7	4	4	39

P=Participation
S=Supported Independence
FI=Functional Independence

Based on the low number of students (less than 10) tested per grade level for all of these assessments, the results are not included in this report to protect confidentiality of students.

6. Percentage of parent participation in Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Our classroom teachers have extended their commitment to differentiation to parent-teacher conferences, resulting in the participation rates reflected below. We have provided flexible conference scheduling, student-led conferences, group presentations, family meals, class programs, and electronic portfolios, among other creative opportunities to increase conference participation.

Year	% of Participation
2009-2010	96
2010-2011	96

We are pleased to have the opportunity to continue to serve your child at Brookside Learning Center and will continue to challenge all preconceived notions of what a child can do, enabling each student to discover and achieve their goals.

Sincerely,

Peter Bennett
Supervisor of Special Education
Lewis Cass Intermediate School District