



Lewis Cass Intermediate School District

Learning For All...Whatever It Takes

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Brookside Learning Center Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

February 10, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2019-20 educational progress for the Brookside Learning Center. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Michele Derenzy, Supervisor of Special Education for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site <https://bit.ly/3d3ny4k> or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2019-20 school year, schools were identified using definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has a student subgroup performing at the same level as the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state or has a graduation rate at or below 67%. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given.

Our school has not been given one of these labels.

A key challenge for our school is the varied ability levels and individual needs of the students that we teach. We serve students with severe emotional impairments, mild, moderate and severe cognitive impairments, severe multiple impairments, autism spectrum disorder as well as early-on and early childhood program students. At BLC, we have implemented a variety of curriculum options for our program and student needs. We have created a comprehensive assessment plan that provides our staff with many tools to obtain the information needed to make student, classroom, school-wide improvements and district-wide improvements.

State law requires that we also report additional information.

1. *Process for assigning pupils to the school:* Students are referred by local school district teams to Lewis Cass ISD self-contained center based special education programs based on their needs. The IEP team determines placement within the ISD programs.
2. *The status of the 3-5 year school improvement plan (SIP):* The SIP for our programs is in its third of three years of implementation. Our school improvement team is monitoring the progress of identified goals and will continue to utilize relevant data to inform next steps within our plan. We will create our new plan within the MiCIP

system this spring. We utilize Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports across our school district. We have adopted Touch Math and SRA Reading Mastery as our core curriculums for our K-12 programs. We also utilize Unique Learning Systems, Engage New York and IXL curriculums for students who need Our teachers use a variety of materials to supplement student levels and abilities.

3. *A brief description of each specialized school:* Brookside Learning Center (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. The Lewis Cass Intermediate School District services around 240 students in two buildings located in Cass County. Children who attend BLC are typically between the ages of 3 and 26.
4. *Identify how to access a copy of the core curriculum, a description of its implementation and an explanation of the variances from the state's model:* The 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/potentially harmful situations, time management, self-determination, and the core academic areas of math, English language arts, science, social studies, and technology. The curriculum is aligned to the Michigan Curriculum Frameworks. Individual student focus is determined at their Individualized Education Planning Meeting. Brookside Learning Center uses the Unique Learning System curriculum as a framework for delivering instruction. We have adopted Touch Math and SRA Reading Mastery as our curriculums for our K-12 programs. We have adopted HighScope for our Early Childhood Special Education programs. Within our severely emotionally impaired programs our staff utilizes Engage New York ELA and math as well as IXL which are aligned with Michigan's Common Core grade level requirements.
5. *The aggregate student achievement results for any local competency tests or nationally normed achievement tests:* We are unaware of any tests available locally or nationally which would be suited to measure achievement results for severely impaired students. Our cohort groups are less than 30 and data is not collected for smaller subgroups on State Testing. Due to the Covid pandemic no State level assessments were administered for the 2019-2020 school year.
6. *Identify the number and percent of students represented by parents at parent-teacher conferences:* During the 2020-2021 school year, 91% of our parents attended conferences, 95% of the parents attended conferences in 2019-20, 97% of the parents attended conferences in the 2018-19 school year.
7. *For high schools only, also report on the following:* Due to the fact that our programs are all self-contained special education, Brookside Learning Center does not currently have any dually enrolled students, college equivalent courses, or students taking courses where scores lead to college credit.

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. Our mission statement is "Learning For All...Whatever It Takes."

Sincerely,

Michele Derenzy

Michele Derenzy
Supervisor of Special Education
Lewis Cass Intermediate School District