



# Annual Report

A Publication for Employees of Bay-Arenac ISD

**Bay-Arenac ISD is dedicated to meeting the needs of students in Bay and Arenac Counties. For us, it is—and always will be—about kids. To serve them, we provide important programs and services to seven local K-12 school districts, all charter, parochial, and private schools in the most efficient and cost-effective ways possible.**

**By pooling resources and providing services regionally, Bay-Arenac ISD provides cost-effective, quality results. Together, Bay-Arenac ISD and its local districts determine the services needed to improve student achievement, serve children's individual needs, develop teachers' expertise and connect with our communities.**

**Our services meet the educational needs of our students in General Education (Instructional Services), Special Education, and Career and Technical Education.**



## 2006-2007 School Highlights

Dear Neighbor:

As you review the enclosed reports, you will quickly realize that **Bay-Arenac ISD** continues to focus on the students we serve. In addition, we are assisting our local school districts with the High School Reform process. We have continued to revise and enhance our ISD Strategic Plan and now we will soon be the first ISD in the nation to be North Central Accredited.

### North Central Accreditation

Accreditation through North Central Association on Accreditation and School Improvement will provide the Board of Education, staff, and administrators with targeted information to improve the district's effectiveness and ultimately, student performance. During a site visit scheduled for October 7-10, 2007, the district will undergo a rigorous examination of evidence in each of the seven accreditation standards. A team representing educational agencies from across the state and nation will conduct staff and constituent district interviews to determine the level that standards are integrated and implemented at Bay-Arenac ISD.

Best wishes,

*Michael R. Dewey*

Michael R. Dewey  
Superintendent  
Bay-Arenac ISD

# Highlights from General Education

## New High School Graduation Requirements

Holding students to consistent, high standards that will prepare them for the life and global economy they will face is the focus behind Michigan's new high school graduation requirements.

The State Board of Education introduced the new requirements, called the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), in December 2005. When the state legislature enacted the requirements as law in March 2006, they became the driving force behind high reform in Michigan and are among the most rigorous in the nation. In satisfying these requirements, graduates will meet and often surpass the most stringent entry requirements for all colleges and universities in the state and will provide the academic and applied learning skills business and industry leaders say they need in their workforce.

As these high standards dramatically change the face of education in Michigan, **Bay-Arenac ISD** is working with the local districts, parents and area businesses to ensure that these "new requirements" are communicated, understood and implemented in the best, most efficient way possible.

**Bay-Arenac ISD** is working with our local school districts to prepare our students to meet these new challenges by

- publishing and disseminating the booklet, Michigan High School Graduation Requirements;
- speaking with groups such as staff, students, parents and community members about the MMC;



- working with the BAISD Career Center to identify academic content from the MMC in each CTE program;
- collaborating with our LEAs to develop support strategies for children who are not successful academically in middle school or high school;
- researching what and how other ISDs and LEAs are dealing with MMC issues;
- sharing information about MMC with LEA administrators on an on-going basis;
- contracting with staff whose specific responsibilities include MMC.

# Highlights from Special Education

## Strategic Planning updates for Special Education

The Special Education Department strives to offer the best possible special education programs and services to eligible students throughout the **Bay-Arenac ISD**. The following is a summary of the work that has been done in each of the Special Education Strategic Planning committees.

### **Behavior Review:**

The committee's goal is the care, welfare, safety and security within our school community. The behavior team promotes and helps facilitate the use of positive behavior intervention strategies that are aligned with best practices in behavior/classroom management.

The team sets guidelines for the development and oversight of behavior improvement plans, as well as compliance with State and Federal laws, rules and policies. The team provides consultation to classroom teachers and facilitates training for all staff in the area of behavior management and school-wide systems of positive behavior support.

### **Curriculum**

This committee develops and implements curriculum for the programs that serve students with Severe Cognitive Impairments, Severe Multiple Impairments and Autism Spectrum Disorder.

The primary focus has been to define the continuum of center-based programs that are offered by the Bay-Arenac ISD. The committee also looks at potential gaps in services and makes recommendations for future planning.

A member of the committee serves on the State's curriculum committee for Severely and Moderately Cognitively Impaired students. The most recent version of the curriculum produced by that committee was tailored after the BAISD curriculum.

### **Transition/Community-Based Instruction**

The committee discusses current needs, existing services and strategies to access new services. This is a new committee that started during the second semester of the 2006-2007 school year.

### **Response to Intervention**

When the Individual with Disabilities Act was re-authorized in December 2004, states were given the option of using either a Response to Intervention Model or a Severe Discrepancy Model to identify students with a learning disability. Using the Response to Intervention Model requires screening all children in the early elementary grades to help identify students who may be at risk of failure. Students identified will be provided with "early intervening" services i.e., special reading programs, etc.

To move in this direction, the Special Education and Instructional Services Departments have combined efforts to provide training and support to our LEAs. This initiative will be piloted in four local districts in 2007-08, with the intent to provide services to all school districts within the ISD in the near future.

### **Autism Spectrum Disorder Team**

The goal of this team centers around the development of the ASD curriculum guidelines to improve ASD programs that serve students. Dr. Janine Stichter from the University of Missouri-Columbia has visited our programs and worked directly with our staff and committee at various times during the school year.

# Highlights from Career and Technical Education

## State and National Certification offered to students

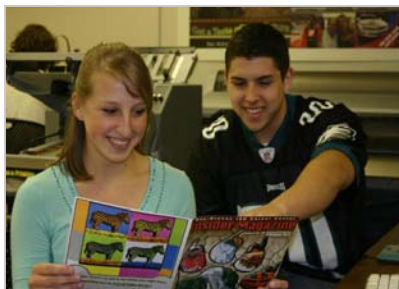
The **Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center** offers 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students the opportunity to spend half of their school day in one of 23 Career and Technical Education programs. The students who attend the Career Center have the opportunity to earn national and state certifications that are directly related to the curriculum taught in their program area. Some examples of certifications students earned during the past school year are: American Welding Society Certification, Certified Nursing Assistant, A+, Novell, Microsoft Office, National Institute of



Metalworking Skills (NIMS), Michigan Certification Tests in the Transportation areas, Serve Safe, SKYTRACK and many more. Acquiring industry standard certifications help our students to earn additional college credits through articulation as well as earn better pay at related employment.

## Project-Based Learning available to students

Each year, students in the Graphics and Printing Communication's program at the **Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center** use state-of-the-art equipment to publish the Insider Magazine. Students are able to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have learned throughout the school year. Students research and write the articles, photograph people and events and create and design the pages using layout software. They also create printing plates used to print the magazine on over 100,000 sheets of paper. Students operate a two-color offset printing press while employing industry-standard, quality-control techniques. The Insider Magazine has won 25 nationally recognized Gutenberg Awards in the past eight years for printing and design and in 2005-2006 it received the Best of Show Award. All Career Center students and visitors receive a copy of the magazine. The current issue is the largest yet at 104 pages.



## Adult Education prepares students for Life-Long Learning

Working toward **Bay-Arenac ISD's** mission of Educational Excellence, the Adult and Continuing Education Department continues to prepare our diverse student population to become successful life-long learners. What was offered in 2006-2007:

- High School Completion classes at the Bay County Community Center and at the Arenac County Living & Learning Center.
- Parenting classes called Proud Fathers/Proud Parents for the second year in both Bay and Arenac Counties.
- New classes: Phlebotomy, customized welding training and Carpenter Apprenticeship program.
- The GED exam was offered ten times throughout the year.
- Collaboration with the Literacy Council of Bay County to provide tutors for students.
- Restructuring the Nursing Assistant program.

## Technical Services achieves much!

Bay-Arenac ISD Technical Services has accomplished much in 2006-2007. Some of their accomplishments are as follows:

- The structure of the department was reorganized and new positions were created such as Assistant Application Specialist, Senior Computer Support Specialist, Network Engineer, and Network Systems Engineer. Also, Information Management Systems (IMS) was changed to Application Services.
- Upgrades in the following areas: fiber network equipment from ATM to Gigabit Ethernet, Groupwise (Email) and Internet filtering service.
- Implemented a new technology purchase tracking system.
- Replaced the following: Sceptor 7 servers with new ones and T1 connection with a fast Virtual Private Network connection.
- Removed network vulnerabilities and continue to tighten security.
- Eliminated problems with the data backup system.
- Completed a cost-saving transfer of the local and long distance phone service.

Technicians received training in GradeQuick support. The Network Engineer kept his skills up-to-date by obtaining the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Cisco Certified Design Associate (CCDA) certifications.

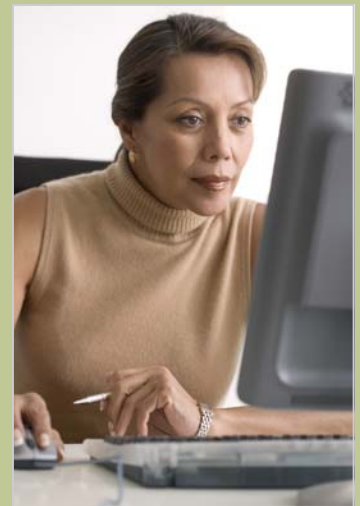
**Bay-Arenac ISD** collaborates with our local districts to assist them with rebuilding servers, fiber network challenges and upgrades; to provide technician and network support to five school districts; and to provide CIMS application services to 21 school districts.

The fiber network is a crucial asset in the delivery of many services offered to the local school districts. We continue to collaborate with our local school districts to look for ways to better serve our schools with technical services.



## REMC 6

In 2006-2007, United Streaming was provided to the school districts in Region 6 (Arenac, Bay, and Iosco Counties). REMC 6 has also started to provide free web-hosting services. Any member district can have their website hosted for free.



## Fiber Network Upgrade

**Bay-Arenac ISD** has over 100 miles of fiber. The fiber network has several uses such as: providing all our local school districts the ability to connect to the AS400, CIMS, Internet access, and the ability to share a common data network.

This past year marks the completion of a three-phase, exhaustive upgrade of our fiber network.

# Highlights from Administrative and Support Services

## Financial Report 2006-2007

Financial activities for **Bay-Arenac ISD** are reported in governmental funds. At BAISD, there are three funds: General Education, Special Education, and Career and Technical Education. BAISD has a total budget of more than \$33 million. The \$18 million payroll supports 275 full-time staff who provide services to local districts in the following areas: increasing student achievement, teacher/administrator professional development, special education, career and technical education, printing services, technology, and a host of other support services. Each fund had revenues in excess of expenditures. BAISD continues to be very strong financially.

## Student Services Truancy

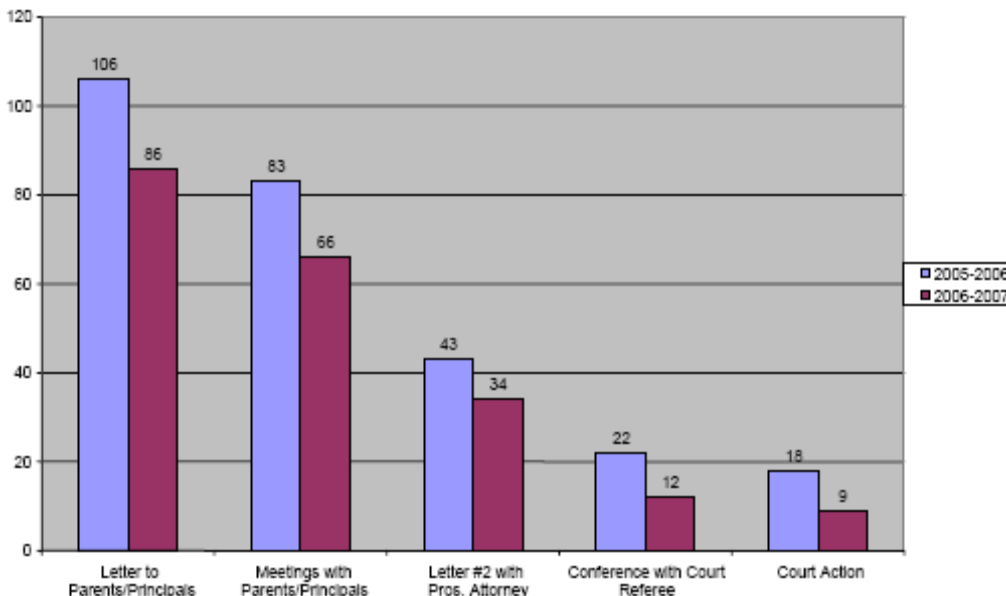
Helping local school districts in Bay and Arenac County keep students in school is the primary objective of the **Bay-Arenac ISD Attendance Officer**. This goal is met by working in partnership with school officials, parents and students and with the support from the County Juvenile or District Court.

The role of the BAISD Attendance Officer is to compliment the efforts of the local school districts to enforce the Michigan Compiled Attendance Act by:

- providing efficient means of collecting and storing truancy referral information centrally across districts.
- providing feedback to schools based on collected data.
- providing summary reports for Superintendents and Principals.

The Truancy program not only puts children back in the classroom but holds the parent and student accountable for their actions. As a result, school attendance is given a higher priority, showing that behavior is modified and attitude changes. Below is a chart comparing 2005-2006 to 2006-2007 school year truancy referrals.

Two-Year Truancy Comparison



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