



*We are all  
a piece of the  
bigger picture*

2017-2018

Bay-Arenac ISD  
*Annual Report*



Bay-Arenac ISD is committed to our mission of providing educational excellence that benefits our students and the programs and services we provide to our local public school districts and charter school academies.

Bay-Arenac is dedicated to serving our districts and is always looking for opportunities to improve our services. The 2017-2018 annual report provides a summary of the many ways we pursue those opportunities through leadership, services and programs.

Deborah Kadish  
*Superintendent, Bay-Arenac ISD*

## OUR VISION

**Bay-Arenac ISD . . .**  
**a leading educational service organization for the benefit of all students.**

## BELIEFS AND VALUES

**We believe people are most effective when there is:**

- a safe, healthy environment
- mutual respect and trust
- a spirit of shared decision-making and cooperation
- a sense of responsibility for performance
- a commitment to professional and personal growth

## BAY-ARENAC ISD LOCATIONS

### **Bay-Arenac ISD Educational Service Center**

4228 Two Mile Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48706-2324

### **Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center**

4155 Monitor Rd.  
Bay City, MI 48706-9211

### **Bay-Arenac ISD Living & Learning Center**

#### **Bay Campus**

1435 W. Center Rd.  
Essexville, MI 48732-2111

### **Bay-Arenac ISD Living & Learning Center**

#### **Arenac Campus**

2032 Pine River Rd.  
Standish, MI 48658

## BAY-ARENAC ISD BOARD OF EDUCATION

**RICHARD W. KLENDER**, President

**DOUG FURTAH**, Vice President

**WILLIAM F. KARBOWSKI**, Treasurer

**PENNY L. PYNNONEN**, Secretary

**DOUGLAS NEWCOMBE**, Trustee

**CHARLES ROCHOW**, Trustee

**RICHARD KOWALSKI**, Trustee

The Board of Education of Bay-Arenac complies with all federal and state laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the United States Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Education.

## BAY-ARENAC ISD PUBLIC, CHARTER AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS WE SERVE:

All Saints Central High, Middle & Elementary Schools

Arenac Eastern School District

Auburn Area Catholic School

Au Gres-Sims School District

Bangor Township Schools

Bay-Arenac Community High School

Bay City Public Schools

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran School

Essexville-Hampton Public Schools

Faith Lutheran School

Immanuel Lutheran School

Pinconning Area Schools

St. Bartholomew Evangelical Lutheran School

St. John Lutheran School - Amelith

St. John's Lutheran School

St. Michael Elementary School

St. Paul Lutheran School

Standish-Sterling Community Schools

State Street Academy

Trinity Lutheran School

Trinity Lutheran School (Monitor)

Zion Lutheran School (Bay City)

Zion Lutheran School (Beaver)

# Technical Services

Bay-Arenac ISD's Technical Services Department provides technology services for the ISD and collaborates on various services with local districts in Arenac, Bay and Iosco Counties. Collaboration efforts allow districts and the ISD to leverage financial resources to provide students with increased access to technology and improve student achievement.

Network support services are provided to the eight local districts within Bay and Arenac Counties, Tawas Area Schools, as well as the entire ISD. These services include firewall management, web-filtering, off-site backup, support of a large 100+ mile fiber Wide Area Network and general network and server support for school districts.

The ISD supports a collaboration for hosting and licensing of student and financial management software for 17 school districts. This enables districts to save staff time and other financial resources. Districts are encouraged to leverage the shared knowledge gained through these collaborative efforts.

## REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL MEDIA CENTER 6 (REMC6)

REMC6 continues to expand participation levels from the local districts at its technology meetings. Of the 11 school districts within REMC6, nine now have teachers active in the REMC6 tech group with meetings averaging 35 educators. The tech group meets four times during the course of the school year, and meetings focus on peer to peer technology centered professional development. Members of this group share the information received with colleagues in their local building/district. By working with peers, teachers are able to make strong connections and share ideas with fellow educators in the region.

# Printing & Graphic Services

Services provided to local and non local school districts, included but were not limited to, design, marketing, and printing multiple types of forms, brochures, business cards, catalogs, testing material, posters, textbooks, ID tags, annual reports and newsletters.

Printing Services has collaborated with the Career Center and Special Education to provide hands on learning experiences for students over the past year. This collaboration provided each student with individualized learning and work experiences. Students were from Career Center Work Based Learning and Post Secondary programs. In the past year students worked on many projects such as designing invitations, printing envelopes, laminating, collating, tabbing, padding, book binding, scoring and various other printing and graphics tasks. Along with gaining graphics and printing knowledge, students also gained experience in communication skills, customer relations, money handling, work ethics, and professional behaviors.



# Building Operations

## OPERATIONS

Over the past year, the department has completed many projects in all district buildings. Notable projects/upgrades are:

### **ARENAC CAMPUS**

Updated building maps, window blinds, purchased a new van, exterior doors numbered, parking lot, replaced gym basketball backboard.

### **BAY CAMPUS**

Updated building maps, new carpet in multi-purpose room, replaced south parking lot and installed new playground fence, exterior door numbered, painted office areas, tornado and fire escape routes for multipurpose room, purchased three new vans.

### **CAREER CENTER**

New greenhouse heating system, exterior door numbers, bus duct repaired and updated, two new vans purchased, updated building maps, landscaping, new riding lawn mower purchased, new stairway carpeting installed, replaced two interior doors, along with miscellaneous painting throughout the building.

### **CONFERENCE CENTER**

Purchased the former Home Builders Association building, parking lot striped, updated landscaping, cleaned and painted the interior, doors numbered, building inspection, alarm and fob system installed, reception area carpeted, sidewalk installed, replaced exterior can lamps to LED, fiber installed, new furniture purchased.

### **EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER**

New carpet in the lobby and meeting room, updated building maps, exterior door numbered, landscaping, painted interior of building, overflow parking lot striped, partial window replacement, new furnace and air conditioning unit for the Bangor Room, updated fire alarm panel.

Many classrooms and office moves took place after the school year was completed. Approximately 12-15 moves were made throughout the district.

# Instructional Services

The Bay-Arenac ISD Instructional Services Department is proud to partner with our local districts to ensure that all staff and administrators have access to the latest information, professional learning, and support as we work together to increase student achievement for all students in Bay and Arenac Counties.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR PROGRESS

### LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

During the 2017-18 school year, educational leaders from area school districts met monthly for BAISD Curriculum Council meetings. This group is the heart and soul of instructional initiatives in Bay and Arenac Counties. The role of the group is to remain on the leading edge of learning-related issues and collectively work together for the benefit of the region. In 2017-2018, Council members learned about evaluation requirements and curriculum changes through presentations by experts from the ISD, Michigan Department of Education, Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Associations and other organizations as they planned professional learning activities for all districts across the ISD, and collaboration on many other projects. A prime example of this would be the Council's planning of an ISD-wide professional learning conference for all of our districts.

### REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our Great Lakes Bay Instructional Team, made up of leaders from Bay-Arenac ISD, Clare-Gladwin Regional Education Service District, Gratiot-Isabella Regional Education Service District and Saginaw Intermediate School District, continues to work collaboratively to provide the best professional learning opportunities for the region in a local setting. A prime example of this would be the Educator Evaluation trainings where different sessions were offered at multiple sites throughout the region. Another example would be the team members working together to develop Guided School Improvement sessions that are hosted at each site. The GLB Instructional Team also develops a comprehensive catalog of professional development offerings each year. During the 2017-2018 school year, more than 110 professional programs were offered to staff with participation from over 2,200 staff members.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMS

### BAISD FALL 2017 PROFESSIONAL LEARNING CONFERENCE

The theme for the 2017 Fall Conference was Building the Future-Foundations for Student Success and was hosted by Essexville-Hampton Public Schools on August 30, 2017. The conference offered over 150 breakout sessions with a wide range of topics. Our Keynote speaker was Mark Scharenbroch (motivational speaker, thought provoker, and comedic entertainer). Brad Waid (international speaker and industry leader in Educational Technology, 21st Century Learning, Culture and Innovation, Augmented Reality, and Emerging Technologies) provided a closing keynote. Presenters were comprised of staff from our local districts, the Bay-Arenac ISD, the GLB Region, MDE, Michigan Association



of Superintendents and Administrators, and from around the nation. More than 1,250 participants from our local districts attended as well as local business partners.

### **PRINCIPALS NETWORK SERIES**

BAISD has been working to foster and build leadership capacity in our area on several fronts. For our current leaders, we host a Principals Network Series several times per year where local leaders have the opportunity to stay up-to-date on the latest information, network, share ideas, receive training and refresh. Elementary, middle and high school principals attended the network in the 2017-18 school year with a focus on Early Literacy and the Early Literacy Essentials documents.



### **LEADERSHIP ACADEMY SERIES**

For new and aspiring leaders, we have developed a Leadership Academy Series where educators in our region can come to refine and develop their leadership skills. They have the opportunity to work with practicing administrators from every level, such as Shannon Flippin, Elementary Principal in Essexville-Hampton Public Schools, Darci Long, Principal at Bay City Academy, and Tim Marciniak, High School Principal in Bay City Public Schools. They are joined by veteran leaders, BAISD Consultant Dr. Don Clark and former superintendent John Mertz, in this exciting evening program. There were 25 participants who attended this series in the 2017-18 School Year. The program was expanded this year to add an additional session and a job shadowing component. Academy participants also enjoyed participating in traditional series components such as the Superintendent's Panel and monthly scenarios.

### **NEW TEACHER ACADEMY**

One of the most critical issues facing education is the shortage of qualified teachers and new teachers entering the profession. We take this issue very seriously and invest a great deal of time in our New Teacher Academy at BAISD. The goal of this program is to ensure that new teachers entering the profession have the tools they need to be successful, have the support and mentoring that they need and build professional networks. In the New Teacher Academy, teachers meet throughout the year under the leadership of veteran kindergarten teacher Kimberly Clark from Essexville-Hampton Public Schools, and take part in presentations and activities with experts from around the region. In 2017-18, there were 21 educators from the Great Lakes Bay Region that participated in this seven-part series.

### **GREAT LAKES BAY COUNSELOR NETWORK SERIES**

This three-day series was developed to update members in the counselor community with current topics in their educational area through networking, moderated discussion forums and educational workshops. A total of 23 counselors attended the sessions that were held in November, February and April of the 2017-2018 school year under the leadership of BAISD Consultant Salle O'Neill.



# Instructional Services



## GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Kita Asbill, a national GE trainer, continues to work with Great Lakes Bay educators inspiring teachers and principals alike with the Great Expectations model of transforming schools into highly collaborative, supportive environments for students. Summer academies have proven to be very successful. Educators embrace Great Expectations because, with GE, the test scores of their students improve at the same time that discipline referrals and absentee rates decline. They appreciate the means GE provides for eliminating bullying and creating safe school environments. In July 2018, 34 educators participated in the program bringing the total number of participants in the past eight years over 1,344 from 26 districts.

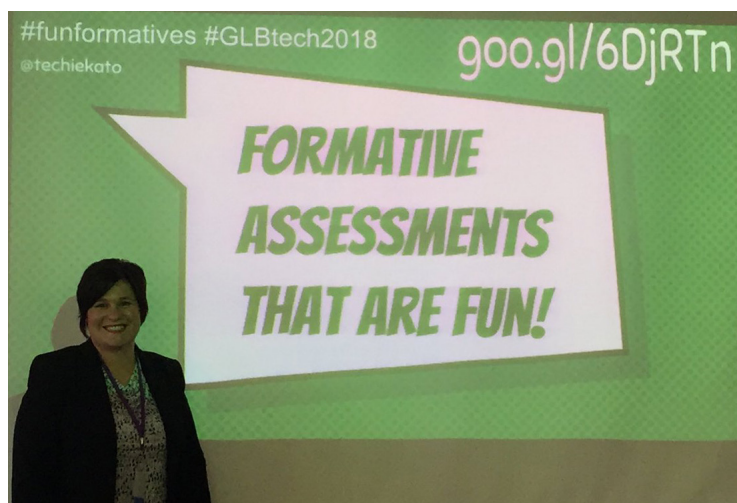
## TECH CAMP 2018

BAISD partnered with our Great Lakes Bay friends to bring the first ever GLB Tech Camp 2018 to the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center, in April 2018. Participants had the opportunity to listen to nationally acclaimed keynote presenter Kevin Honeycutt in addition to presenters from throughout the ISD and around the state during this unique Saturday event.

## PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

### PRIORITY SCHOOL SUPPORT

In August 2014, BAISD began work with the Michigan Department of Education to provide support to the schools identified by the MDE as Priority Schools. Michigan's approved ESEA flexibility waiver request now designates the lowest achieving five percent of schools as Priority Schools. Three schools within the BAISD were identified as a part of the 2014 Priority School Cohort. During the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years, the BAISD Instructional Services Department worked with the identified schools to provide school improvement facilitators, district improvement facilitators, intervention specialists, professional learning opportunities and other support to the identified schools through the MI Excel System of Support. The improvement plan which is referred to as an Unpacking Tool is updated yearly. In the spring of 2017, one school was released by the State School Reform Office (SRO), leaving two Priority Schools in the Bay-Arenac District. In the fall 2017, all remaining schools were released! BAISD continued to provide support to the released schools through the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year following MDE guidelines. That support continues through September 2018.



## FOCUS SCHOOL SUPPORT

As with the Priority Schools, the State turned over the support of Focus Schools to the ISDs. Focus Schools are identified as the ten percent (10%) of Michigan schools having the widest gap in student achievement between their lowest and highest performing students. In the summer of 2014, three schools in the BAISD were identified. Unlike with the Priority Schools, the type of support that the ISD provided did not consist of financial support but approximately 40 hours of support from a District Improvement Facilitator to help them look at data indicators and study achievement gaps. In 2016 one school was released from Focus School status. In the spring of 2017 all Focus Schools were released. However, the Michigan Department of Education has given the schools the option to continue working with their ISD partners.



## SCHOOL IDENTIFICATION

Under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Priority and Focus school designations have been eliminated for the 2018-2019 school year and the Regional Assistance Grant has been completely revamped. Schools will now be identified as Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement Schools (TSI). BAISD does not currently have any CSI schools. BAISD does have a number of TSI schools. BAISD does not receive funding for the support of these schools. However, support is provided through the Instructional Services Department to the local districts as a part of the instructional services program.

## CONTRACTED CONSULTANTS

The Instructional Services Department through the Great Lakes Bay Collaborative has access to a number of highly qualified and skilled consultants to provide support to our local districts. Throughout the 2017-2018 school year, our ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies consultants continued to provide support to our local districts.

Looking forward to the 2018-2019 school year, the GLB Instructional Team continues to work together to leverage our limited resources while providing instructional support to our stakeholders. Our premise is that classroom practices matter most; therefore, our focus must be on building the expertise of all teachers, building leaders, and central office leaders who support moving students to career and college ready independence. The Great Lakes Bay consortium continues to work collaboratively to provide the best possible professional learning opportunities and resources to the staff and students that we support every day.

## GRANT FUNDING

### EARLY LITERACY GRANT

The General Education Leadership Network (GELN) Early Literacy Task Force prepared a series of documents in support of the Early Literacy Initiative with the goal of increasing Michigan's capacity to improve children's literacy by identifying a small set of research-supported literacy coaching practices. Through the Early Literacy Project, BAISD provided direct coaching support to first and second grade coaches throughout Bay and Arenac Counties. The BAISD was also part of a coaching network with Saginaw ISD that meets regionally at both BAISD and SISD on a regular basis.



# Instructional Services

## PRINCIPAL EDUCATOR EVALUATION GRANT

Grant funds were allocated in the fall of 2016 and could only be used for professional learning or support related to educator evaluation professional learning such as evaluation software. Through the grant, the BAISD developed an approved Educator Evaluation Service Plan with participating districts that was a combination of training offered directly at BAISD, training setup for the districts and a \$5 per student flow-through to districts. Although the grant funding ended in September 2017, the BAISD was able to set up training in advance that lasted throughout the entire 2017-18 year.

## IN REVIEW

Things continue to change very quickly in public education with the passage of new legislation, changes in state guidelines and expectations, etc. The Bay-Arenac ISD Instructional Services Department plans to continue to be a stable source of leadership and support in all of these changes. Staffing changes have been made to appropriately address local needs. We are proud of the partnerships that we have established with outside organizations such as the Michigan Department of Education and are extremely grateful for the ongoing partnerships with our local districts.



# Career & Technical Education

In September 2017, the BAISD Career Center Counseling Department implemented a Data-Driven Counseling Program. The call to use data is not only clearly defined in school reform, it is the foundation of transformative school counseling. Studies indicate that implementing school counseling accountability strategies as a result of collecting and analyzing data impacts students' academic achievement, personal social skills, career readiness skills and demonstrates program effectiveness. Data DRIVES decisions and funding Data ensures that you are reaching EVERY student, so EVERY student benefits from your school counseling program.

The driving force behind initiating a Data-Driven Counseling Program was the fact that although we knew our counseling program impacted student success, we didn't have any data on how much or in what way. We were also interested in using the data to learn the fundamental needs of our students so we could create counseling interventions which would help meet any unmet student needs.

We gather the baseline data by requesting all students fill out a survey at the beginning of the school year during their Counselor Orientations. Survey questions which ask pertinent information about

demographics, academic development, career development and social/emotional development were created by recognizing the domains established by the American School Counselor Association's (ASCA) mindsets and behaviors for student success. Follow-up is done with additional surveys throughout the school year to assess the services the Counseling Department provides.

### **The results of our survey at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year identified some of the following data:**

#### **TOP CONCERNS CAREER CENTER STUDENTS REQUESTED SUPPORT WITH:**

Anxiety – 38%  
Time Management – 35%  
Study Skills – 28%

#### **TOP TWO UNIVERSITY/COLLEGES CAREER CENTER STUDENTS ARE ATTENDING:**

Delta – 52%  
Saginaw Valley State University – 10%

#### **AFTER GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL WHAT ARE CAREER CENTER STUDENTS' PLANS?**

Attend a 4 year University – 41%  
Attend a Community College – 38%

### **Students' responses to college preparation survey questions before and after October, our post-secondary planning month:**

#### **HAVE YOU ATTENDED ANY COLLEGE PRESENTATIONS?**

September – 32% Yes  
November – 69% - Yes

#### **HAVE YOU APPLIED TO ANY COLLEGES?**

September – 10% - Yes  
November - 85% - Yes

#### **HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID? (FAFSA)**

September - 2% - Yes  
November – 30% - Yes  
May – 70.6% - Yes

This is only a small portion of the data we compiled during the 2017-2018 school year. What are we doing with this data? To address concerns of anxiety, time management and study skills among students we are partnering with The Rock to provide both weekly and monthly meetings at the Career Center to address these issues. We share pertinent data regarding post-secondary planning with Program Advisory Members. This gives them information regarding what students' post high-school plans are and how we are preparing students for the world of work. The data regarding colleges/universities our students are planning to attend

# Career & Technical Education

supports our continued efforts in building a partnership with Delta College and Saginaw Valley State University. We also created an on-line 24 hour access website for students to have the ability to sign-up to see their Career Center Counselor, Delta Rep, SVSU Rep and for ACCUPLACER Testing. In the two months it was functioning last spring, we had 133 students sign up to see the Delta Representative who is available at the Career Center every Tuesday during the school year and 10 students signed up to see the SVSU Representative who is available at the Career Center one Monday a month. Also, after our seniors completed their Exit Survey in May, we were able to look at the data to see where they were at in their post-secondary planning and had the opportunity to connect with those students who needed additional assistance before they graduated.

In the first year we have implemented the Data-Driven Counseling Program, we realize the value of collecting the data. The information we gather helps us evaluate our program and identify areas for improvement, and it ultimately enhances the school counseling program's efforts to contribute to student success. As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, we are excited to continue and improve on our data collection opportunities.

# Adult and Continuing Education

Many exciting changes took place in the Bay-Arenac ISD Adult and Continuing Education program including several new staff members and a new adult training program. We continued to provide programs and scheduling that accommodate our students' busy lives.

Our partnership with Michigan Works! has continued to grow as we have had great success with our referral process which has resulted in new opportunities for students. We have two classrooms at the Bay City Michigan Works! office and one at the Standish office which provide services for adults who are preparing for the GED or earning their high school diploma. This partnership allows us to offer morning and afternoon classes at these off-site locations that better meet the transportation and scheduling needs of our students.

We continue to serve our local students ages 16-19 years who are preparing to take the GED or earn their high school diploma in our Virtual Pupil Learning program. We have seen an increase in the demand for our program and have had success with those completing the program.

This year we were approved as an ETS Paraprofessional Testing Administration center. The ParaPro Assessment measures the skills and knowledge in reading, writing and math possessed by prospective and practicing paraprofessionals. It also measures their ability to apply those skills and knowledge when assisting in classroom instruction.

In December, we launched a tuition free pilot training program - Education Delivering Great Employees (EDGE). This program quickly and efficiently moved eligible adults into high demand technical career pathways in healthcare, welding and construction. Participants received 100-200 hours of career specific training concurrently with adult education and employability skills training. Upon completion of the program, participants had the opportunity to be placed into an entry-level job in their chosen career pathway. Of the 20 students who completed, 10 earned their high school diploma or GED while receiving the technical training in the area of their choice. Ten students were immediately hired in their field and several are continuing to higher education on their career pathway. We are looking forward to offering two semesters of EDGE next year.



In May, the Adult and Continuing Education program held our first EDGE Showcase. We invited local employers to tour our technical training programs which allowed students to showcase their skills and present resumes to prospective employers.

We are proud to announce that our graduating class increased tremendously this year. A total of 35 students earned their high school diploma or GED; 17 students earned their high school diploma and 18 earned their GED. 56 students completed Career and Technical Education classes this year. Overall, our program served 283 students during the 2017-18 school year.

# Special Education

Bay-Arenac ISD takes pride in providing a continuum of special education programs and services to students with diverse needs who live in Bay and Arenac counties. Programs and services range from providing assistance to students within their own district classrooms to the operation of special schools and programs in separate facilities.

Our Special Education Department provides leadership and support in the implementation of Special Education Programs and Services county wide. We strive to provide current information on rules, regulations, procedures and policies in the operation of special education for local districts, public school academies and non-public school settings.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Bay-Arenac ISD offers a variety of special education programs and services to 2,490 eligible students. These programs and services are provided either in the local school districts or in Bay-Arenac ISD special education facilities. Self-contained programs are provided by Bay-Arenac ISD at the preschool, elementary, middle school, high school and transition levels. Local school districts also operate a variety of different special education programs of their own.

Special education services are provided to the following districts (including all parochial schools within the local district) and public school academies including; Au Gres-Sims, Standish-Sterling, Pinconning Area Schools, Bangor Township, Bay City Public, Essexville-Hampton, Bay Arenac Community High School, Bay City Academy and State Street Academy.

## STAFFING

Special education services provided to Bay-Arenac ISD programs, local districts (including all parochial schools within the local district) and public school academies include:

Position	Number of staff
Speech-Language Pathologists	26
Occupational Therapists	11
School Social Workers	14
School Psychologists	12
Physical Therapists/Physical Therapy	6
Teacher Consultant – Hearing Impaired	1
Educational Audiologist	1
Orientation and Mobility Specialist	1
Teacher Consultant – Visually Impaired	1
Transition Coordinator	1
Teacher Consultants	8
Behavior Support Specialists	2
Autism Specialist	1
Curriculum Coach	1



Bay-Arenac ISD currently has 24 special education classrooms in Bay County and four special education classrooms in Arenac County. In Bay County nine classrooms are run out of our center program The Living and Learning Center – Bay Campus and 15 classrooms are located in our local districts. In Arenac County three classrooms run out of The Living and Learning Center – Arenac Campus and one classroom is located in a local district. In addition to special education classrooms in self-contained settings, local districts run special education programs within the local districts public school buildings.

Bay-Arenac ISD employs eight special education administrators who provide supervision and direction to each of the local districts.

## BAY-ARENAC ISD SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER BASED PROGRAMS

The process for assigning pupils to our school was developed in accordance with Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). Placement into the program occurs through the Individualized Education Planning (IEP) team meeting. Students are eligible for programs and services based on their individual needs which are identified through a rigorous data collection process. Students who are eligible for programs and services in a center program experience significant academic, behavioral or social difficulties, which adversely impact their progress in the curriculum. Students come to our programs from local education agencies (LEAs) or Early Childhood Special Education Programs (ECSE).

### CURRICULUM

Our goal for students in our special education classrooms is to provide an opportunity to learn skills that allow them to become participating and productive members of the community in which they live. To reach these goals students receive academic, adaptive, social, emotional and communication support through multiple curriculums. The curriculum which has been adapted includes functional academics, leisure/recreation, independent living, health and community-based experiences. The curriculum is structured in a way that allows each teacher the opportunity to deliver the curriculum through a tier approach so each child is receiving the information at their ability level. All students work toward individualized goals as defined in their Individual Educational Plan (IEP). Parents and guardians are considered essential participants in their student's education.

Our students participate in the Unique Learning System (ULS). ULS is a standards-based set of interactive tools specifically designed for students with special needs to access the general curriculum. Our students with severe disabilities also participate in the MOVE (Mobility Opportunities via Education) Program. This program is designed to help people with severe disabilities learn the skills needed to sit, stand, walk and transition. Combining natural body mechanics with instruction, learning occurs while students are engaged in real life activities. In addition, all students K-12, experience the Michigan Model for Health. This is a comprehensive, skills-based health education curriculum that supports the goal of helping young people live happier and healthier lives.

## TRANSITION PROGRAMS

Transition programs are offered to students with disabilities 18 years of age and older and are provided by the school in collaboration with community agencies and local businesses. Bay-Arenac ISD's Transition Programs provide an opportunity for student to participate in a set of activities that allow for successful movement from high school to adult living. Students have the opportunity to:

- Increase independence;
- Improve self-determination;
- Improve social and communication skills within the community;
- Identify leisure and recreation areas that increase social participation;
- Experience work-based learning and volunteer opportunities in local businesses;
- Prepare themselves for community living and participation in community events.

## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Bay-Arenac ISD continues to increase collaboration with families and community agencies. The increased effort has helped prepare students for successful transitions between home, school and work. Community partnerships includes formal arrangements between a student receiving special education services, an association, a private sector organization or public institution to provide a program, service or resource that will help support student achievement. A few examples of successful community collaborations include:

- Local state park offering summer programming in collaboration with Michigan Rehabilitation Services;
- Community conversations with local businesses supporting employment for students with disabilities;
- Quarterly meetings with Michigan Rehabilitation Services, Do-All, New Dimensions, Disability Network, Bay-Arenac ISD, Bay Arenac Behavioral Health, MDHHS, AOI and Michigan Works;
- Work based learning opportunities with local businesses resulting in student employment;
- Collaboration with Bay Arenac Behavioral Health for support services for students.

## PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) was established by the Michigan Mandatory Education Act to ensure parents have input into the development of the Intermediate School District plan for the special education programs and services. Parents are identified by their local boards of education. During the 2016-17 school year, the Bay-Arenac ISD PAC approved our updated Bay-Arenac ISD plan. The plan can be found at [www.baisd.net](http://www.baisd.net).

## EARLY ON

The Bay-Arenac ISD provides services to children from birth to age three that are referred from many sources, including physicians, NICU at local hospitals and community agencies. Children can qualify to receive early intervention through Early On, or if they have a greater need, Special Education. Intervention is based on the family's daily routines and the child's individual needs. Families are also encouraged to attend playgroups that are provided at various ISD locations. During the 2017-18 school year, BAISD provided services to 136 children, age birth to three, and their families.

# Early Childhood Special Education

Bay Arenac ISD has five Early Childhood Special Education Classrooms (ECSE) for children ages three to five in Bay and Arenac Counties. Students qualify for this program based on individual need. In the ECSE programs, Creative Curriculum and TS Gold are utilized to ensure that each student receives a consistent program which continually addresses their specific needs. Students may receive speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy and/or social work services. Families are encouraged to attend monthly "Family Focus" events as well as a graduation celebration at the end of the school year that honors students transitioning out of ECSE programs. Eligible students also participate in a summer camp to address individual goals. BAISD provided services to over 100 students, ages three to five, in the ECSE classrooms during the 2017-18 school year.

## GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) focuses on strengthening systems and supports for families with young children. It's been a busy and exciting year for the Great Start Collaborative. There have been many successes and accomplishments including:

- Bay-Arenac Pregnancy to Preschool Partnership (Home Visiting & PreK intake hub, including our new partnership with 2-1-1);
- NEAR – Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences & Resilience efforts for Bay & Arenac (ACES Community Champions) and organizing efforts to build a trauma-informed community of practice;
- Michigan ACES Initiative: <http://mahp.org/ace-grant>;
- Building resilient communities: <https://publichealth.gwu.edu/departments/redstone-center/resilient-communities/>;
- Safe Journey: Substance abuse prevention work, population health based and starting in middle school, <http://safejourneybaycity.weebly.com/>;
- Trusted Advisors grant (place-based community outreach efforts);
- Make Parenting a Pleasure with CAN Council & Neighborhood Resource Center to increase Protective Factors and support parents;
- Great Lakes MotherBaby Cafe' support groups at Beacon of Hope;
- Maternal Child Health Assessment with Bay County Health Department;
- STEM Lending Library expansion and partnership with Bay County Historical Society (Constructing our Community: Block Shop program), including a new site for BAISD Early Learning Group on Fridays;
- Expanding early education and care capacity through partnerships (i.e., creating partnerships to implement an intergenerational care concept, with New Hope Bay and Little Saints Child Care to be called Little Saints at New Hope Bay);
- Partnering with Do All, Inc., Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency and United Way of Bay County to create a Material Assistance System to support at-risk families with vouchers to obtain household items.
- Partnering with Vantage Plastics, Standish Sterling Schools and other community groups to explore the creation of an Arenac Community Center in the former Standish Elementary;
- Partnering with community agencies to secure a 501(c)(3) non profit for the Bay-Arenac Diaper Council, i.e., YWCA.

# Early Childhood Special Education

## GREAT START READINESS PROGRAM

The Great Start Readiness Program(GSRP) is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Research on preschool programs and specific research on GSRP indicates that children provided with a high-quality preschool experience show significant positive developmental differences when compared to children from the same backgrounds who did not attend a high-quality preschool program.

One aspect of high quality comes from scores on the Preschool Program Quality Assessment (PQA) which is a rating instrument designed to evaluate the quality of early childhood programs and identify staff training needs. In Michigan, the minimum standard of quality for a PQA score is 3.5/5. Bay-Arenac Programs continue to average scores on the PQA which exceed a 4.5, enabling them to apply for a 5 star quality rating through the Great Start to Quality rating system. This data as well as data from the TS Gold, an assessment of children in early childhood programs, helped the staff to develop professional development. Over 100 hours of targeted professional development was provided to roughly 160 early childhood providers.

The GSRP provided full-day preschool to 517 students in six local districts and six community-based organizations. Over 85% of all GSRP students meet or exceed research based widely held expectations of readiness upon leaving the program in all areas of development.

SUB-RECIPIENT	NUMBER OF FOUR-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS SERVED
Au Gres-Sims School District	18
Standish-Sterling Community Schools	36
Pinconning Area Schools	48
Bangor Township Schools	47
Bay City Public Schools	172
State Street Academy	18
Bay County Child & Senior Citizen Center	15
Little Saints	3
Play, Learn and Grow	30
Ready, Set, Grow	16
Michigan Child Care Center	32
NEMCSA (Head Start)	82

## IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Over 4,000 children, birth to five years old, living in Bay and Arenac counties receive Imagination Library books each month. Since the inception of the program in 2005, over one half million books have been delivered, giving each child the best prospects for academic learning.

## OTHER EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES

In an effort to promote quality early childhood programming throughout the region, Bay Arenac facilitates Early Childhood Connections. This monthly professional learning program provides over 60 local child care providers and early educators access to high quality, low cost professional development. Such programs fulfill the ISD's commitment to the expansion of quality programming for all children.

Math in the Mail has had continued success in year two! Bay-Arenac ISD enrolled 258 qualified children, an increase from last year. The Math in the Mail program focuses on developing mathematical skills in three-year-old children by providing the tools needed in the home environment for parents, guardians, and other caregivers. Families enrolled in the Math in the Mail program will receive a kit in the mail six times per year which will contain materials, resources, and instructions for several age-appropriate math activities. The Math in the Mail program is key to providing the foundational mathematics knowledge essential to children experiencing success in future STEM related content and careers.