

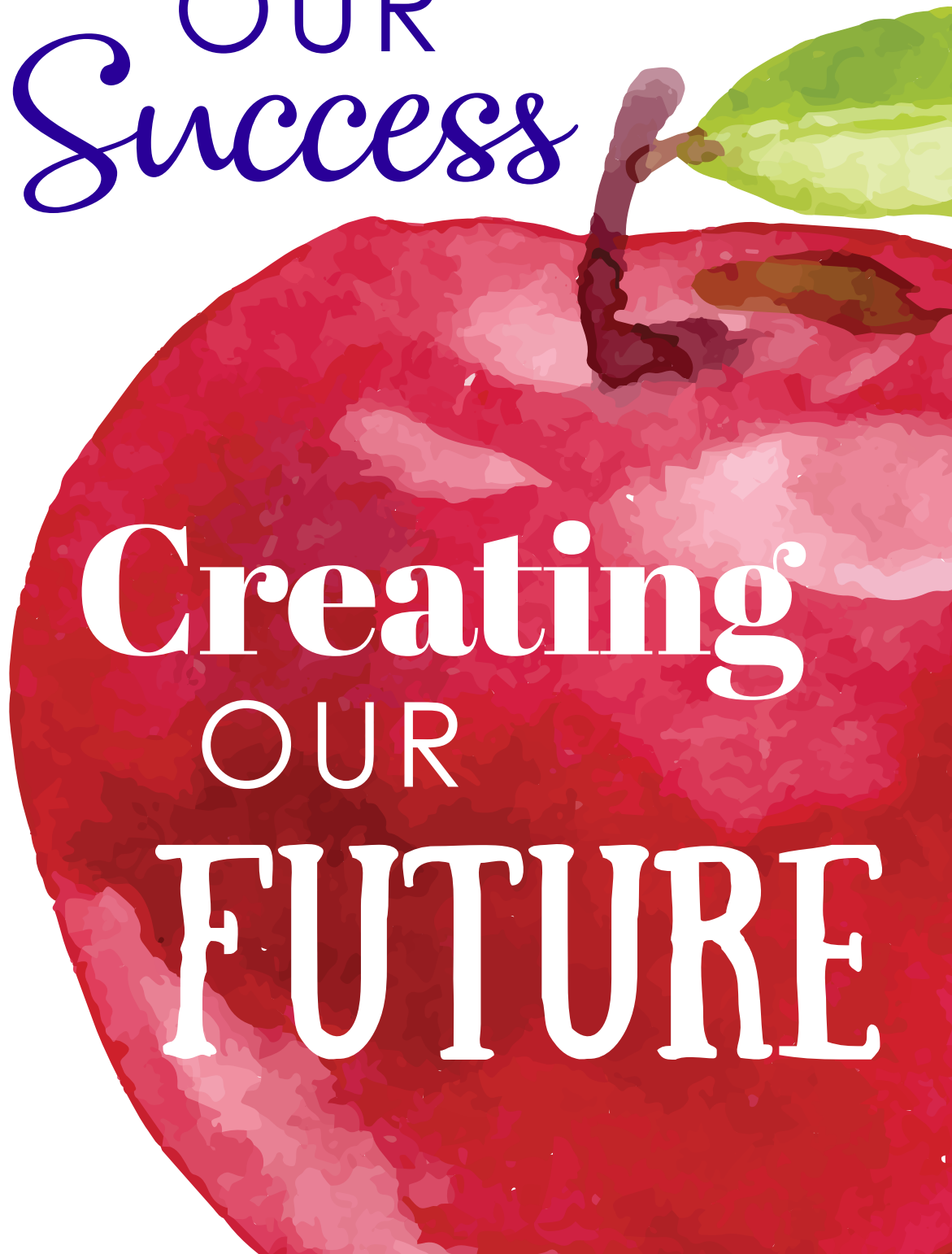
# Annual Report



2018

**Celebrating**  
OUR  
*Success*

**Creating**  
OUR  
**FUTURE**





We are pleased to present the 2018-2019 Annual Report which provides key information on the educational success for the Bay-Arenac Intermediate School District and our programs.

As we celebrate our success, it creates a need to build an even stronger desire to raise our standards for ourselves and the students we serve. Bay-Arenac ISD is committed to educating all students. Our outstanding staff of educators work diligently to ensure that students have a meaningful educational experience which will enable them to have a productive and successful future.

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

- DOUG FURTAH**, President
- DOUGLAS NEWCOMBE**, Vice President
- WILLIAM KARBOWSKI**, Treasurer
- RICHARD KOWALSKI**, Secretary
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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 | St. Bartholomew Evangelical Lutheran School |
| Arenac Eastern School District                       | St. John Lutheran School - Amelith          |
| Auburn Area Catholic School                          | St. John's Lutheran School                  |
| Au Gres-Sims School District                         | St. Michael Elementary School               |
| Bangor Township Schools                              | St. Paul Lutheran School                    |
| Bay-Arenac Community High School                     | Standish-Sterling Community Schools         |
| Bay City Public Schools                              | State Street Academy                        |
| Bethel Evangelical Lutheran School                   | Trinity Lutheran School                     |
| Essexville-Hampton Public Schools                    | Trinity Lutheran School (Monitor)           |
| Faith Lutheran School                                | Zion Lutheran School (Bay City)             |
| Immanuel Lutheran School                             | Zion Lutheran School (Beaver)               |
| Pinconning Area Schools                              |   |



# Technical Services

Bay-Arenac ISD's Technical Services Department provides technology services for the ISD and collaborates on providing various technical services to 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 public school districts within Bay and Arenac Counties, Tawas Area Schools, as well as the entire ISD and several charter schools. 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 materials, posters, textbooks, ID tags, annual reports and newsletters.

Printing & Graphic Services worked in collaboration on the Great Lakes Bay STEM Passports. The passports were given to more than 17,000 students to receive discounted rates to numerous activities which focuses on STEM learning in the region

Printing & Graphic Services 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

The Building Operations Department had another busy year. While keeping the buildings clean, safe and running efficiently during the school year, the following projects were completed.

### ARENAC CAMPUS

Door repair and replacement on exterior doors.  
Tile repair underneath Pine River Road.  
Parking lot filled, sealed and striped along with 700 square feet of asphalt replacement.  
Alarm system updated.  
Grounds were landscaped.

### BAY CAMPUS

Fencing installed around the playground on the south side of the campus.  
The back parking lot was filled, sealed and striped.  
The main office areas were painted.

### CAREER CENTER

Building-wide painting.  
Installed folding security gates for garage doors.  
Parking lot repaired sealed and marked.  
Heating and cooling mini split installed in classrooms.  
Heating and Glass repair in the greenhouse.  
New roof installed over diesel mechanic, child care and the boiler house.  
New flooring/carpet installed in the Agriscience office.  
New intake air weather hoods installed.  
Landscaping updated and tree trimming on the grounds.

### EDUCATIONAL SERVICE CENTER

New furnace installed.  
Parking lot crack filled, sealed, new markings.  
Split rail fence installed at the overflow parking lot.  
Landscaping updated and replaced.  
New carpeting/flooring installed in the lobby, two meeting rooms and lower level.

## SETTING GOALS AND FOCUS WITH BAISD CURRICULUM COUNCIL

Over the 2018-2019 school year, our BAISD Curriculum Council went through an intentional process facilitated by our Instructional Services Leadership Team to determine three priority areas to focus our efforts for the long term. Each priority area is outlined below and highlights the celebrations we have made thus far. We are very excited about building our capacity to support one another in these areas and will continue planning for next steps in the 2019-2020 school year.

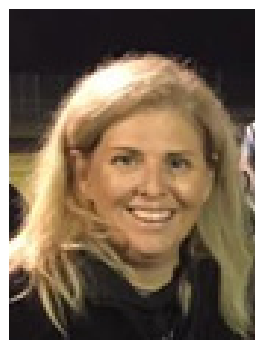
### PRIORITY AREA: EARLY LITERACY

With the help of Kyle Mayer from Ottawa ISD and Reading Now Network, BAISD spent the 2018-19 school year developing teams and sharing literacy learning across our districts. The impact was amazing! The Literacy Rounds process guided the focus for the work of our Early Literacy Coach, Alex Hill. Alex spent a coaching cycle of 6-8 weeks in each building following the rounds process. She worked with teachers developing their capacity to instruct using the GELN Early Literacy Essentials. The work was so impactful that we had the full support of our districts to add a second literacy coach. This will double the buildings we can serve for the 2019-2020 school year! We are happy to welcome Jennifer Gourd to our team and look forward to the exciting work she will be doing. Follow these awesome ladies on Twitter and check out what's happening in Early Literacy! Visit BAISD's Early Literacy Website: @LitCoachHill @litcoachgourd



### PRIORITY AREA: MULTI-TIERED SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT (MTSS)

Utilizing the MDE MTSS Practice Profile as a guide, our district leadership teams have been learning about the essential components of MTSS and evaluating their current practices. BAISD is working with districts to establish necessary supports with a Whole Child approach in reflection of these self assessments, including PBIS. As a first step, our collaborative team determined instructional coaching to be a focus area to support improvement of Tier One instruction. We have invested in building the coaching capacity of our local coaches, teacher leaders, and principals. We are offering some amazing opportunities for professional learning in coaching at BAISD Instructional Coaching with Jill Jackson and The What, Why, and How of Coaching with Steve Seward.



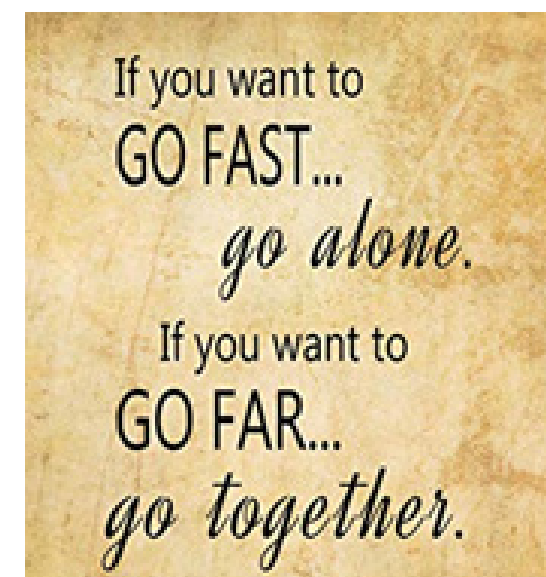
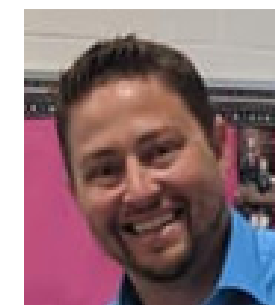
Additionally, BAISD is pleased to announce our partnership with MIBLSI. We have recently agreed to host a MIBLSI Implementation Specialist and welcome Amy Basket to our team! She will be housed at BAISD and will be working with MIBLSI districts across the region. The training and experience she will receive in MTSS will be invaluable to our ISD, and she will be a resource to help support our districts in moving forward with the development and restructuring of their MTSS models. Basket Website: @basketaj

## PRIORITY AREA: CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

To expand opportunities in Career and Technical Education for our local BAISD districts, we are implementing a more comprehensive support structure to meet the needs of our students and educators. We are completing a regional implementation of Xello and MI Bright Future to give students greater access to an excellent career exploration platform. The use of Xello and MI Bright Future will help guide them to career paths based upon the MI Career Development Model as they complete their Educational Development Plans. This includes the development of a Talent Portfolio as required by law. As a successful recipient of regional Marshall Plan grant dollars, we will also be implementing Career Navigators to assist districts with career development in each district. Another exciting opportunity for our students will be the development of an Early/Middle College at our BAISD Career Center. Students already have access to many dynamic programs at the Career Center that prepare them for a future career, but the new EMC will provide even more opportunities for credentials in a variety of fields. The anticipated opening of the BAISD Early/Middle College will be during the 2020-21 school year.

### MORE EXCITING NEWS AT BAISD...

Mark Lyons joins our Instructional Services team as our Technology Integration Specialist! Mark will support our local districts with technology integration, support services, and training and coaching for teachers. This includes the implementation of the new Michigan Computer Science Standards. Lyons Website: @MrMarkLyons





During the 2018-19 school year, over 1,100 BAISD Career Center students had the opportunity to participate in one of five career-oriented national student club organizations including: (BPA) Business Professionals of America; DECA, an association of marketing students; FFA, an association of agriculture students; HOSA, an association of health and science students; and SkillsUSA. Student Clubs at the BAISD Career Center offer a valuable partnership between students, teachers and business and industry, offering participants a roadmap toward sustained success! Statistics show that students who participate in Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) demonstrate higher levels of academic engagement and motivation, civic engagement and employability, skills than other students. Student club related programs, such as industry based competitive events and community service, develop students' 21st century skills including problem solving, creativity, teamwork and goal setting. CTSO's also engage community businesses to help students understand global competition and prepare pathways through high school and college for personal success. Additionally, students who participate in school organizations have higher grade point averages and are more likely to be enrolled in college by age 21 than other students.

In these student organizations, student members compete for awards, scholarships, prizes, enhance technical skills, develop character and citizenship, earn opportunities to travel, and network with future potential employers. In addition to competitions, student club members are actively involved in a wide variety of community service projects. From food drives for the Good Samaritan Rescue Mission and fundraising activities for Camp Fishtales to working on the Wildgrass Preservation Project at the Bay City State park, our students strive to make a positive impact in their community. Here is some data for students who participated in our student organizations for the 2018-2019 school year: SkillsUSA – 545 members, 230 participated in the Regional Conference, 81 participated at the State Conference in Grand Rapids Michigan April 5 – 7 and 19 attended the National Conference June 24 – 29 in Louisville, Kentucky; HOSA – 270 members, 180 participated in the Regional Conference, 107 participated at the State Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan March 21-23 and 12 students attended the National Conference June 19 – 22 in Orlando, Florida; BPA – 130 members, 110 participated in the Regional Conference, 26 participated at the State Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan March 14 – 17 and 4 participated in the National Conference May 1 – 5 in Anaheim, California; DECA – 52 members, 50 participated in Districts, 17 participated in the State Conference in Detroit, Michigan March 8 – 10 and 5 participated in the International Conference April 27 - 30 in Orlando Florida; FFA – 34 members, 13 participated in the Regional/District Conferences, 24 participated in the State Competitions in Lansing, Michigan and one will be participating in the National Convention October 30 – Nov 2, 2019 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

## SKILLSUSA

At the 2019 SkillsUSA Michigan State Conference held April 5 - 7 in Grand Rapids, the Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center's SkillsUSA Chapter received the Gold Level Chapter of Distinction Award. This is the first time that a SkillsUSA chapter from Michigan has received this award. To achieve this award, the chapter must meet certain criteria set forth by the National SkillsUSA office through their program called the "Chapter Excellence Program" (CEP).

The lead advisor for the chapter, David Urlaub, was also nominated for the 2019 SkillsUSA National Advisor of the year where he was one of five national finalists. David is a licensed professional counselor. He has done a wonderful job promoting SkillsUSA in Michigan and nationwide. David is on the SkillsUSA state

Leadership Technical Committee and assists with the state leadership contests every year. He personally has had several students over the years compete in many leadership contests, including job skill demonstration, extemporaneous speaking, job interview and prepared speech. All his students have competed at the regional, state and national levels and he has had medalists at every level.

David has served SkillsUSA in many capacities. He was elected to the SkillsUSA Michigan Advisor Council (their Board of Directors) many years ago. He served with distinction for several years as the Region 3 Senior Representative and last year was the President. Under David's leadership, Bay Arenac ISD Career Center has participated in several national contests over the years, including being a finalist in the 2018 Show Off Your Skills video contest and winning the 2016 SkillsUSA Career Safe video contest.

## DISCOVER YOU - THE ROCK HAS IMPACT ON CAREER CENTER STUDENTS!

Each and every day we have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students we serve. The students who attend the Career Center come from 21 area high schools, with a focus on being career ready



and college prepared. The Bay-Arenac ISD Career Center counselors implemented student surveys to better identify the needs that our Career Center students are facing.

In 2017 we learned that 25% of students are dealing with anxiety, 18% of students have self esteem issues and 10% are faced with depression. In 2018, the data showed that of the 1,200 students attending the Career Center, 22% of students are concerned about their levels of anxiety, 13% are dealing with depression and 12% have challenges with their self-esteem. Twenty-eight percent of our students felt they would need



support with anxiety throughout this past school year. These are the students that have actually identified their needs. As a result, we knew we needed to be proactive in addressing these issues to help students in their life skills as well as learning a trade and preparing for their future.

We are truly excited to partner with The Rock - Discover You Program to support and empower student needs. The partnership was made possible through a grant from the former Dow Corning Foundation which allows Bay and Arenac students to participate in up to 18 lessons focused on social emotional learning, self worth and life skills. We found that from the partnership, the classes have made a significant impact to participating students in how they would address a life challenge.

The data identified that students:

- Stop and think about their choice before reacting;
- Feel more confident when approaching a difficult situation;
- Learned how to use their character strengths to better themselves;
- Value the importance of demonstrating good manners.

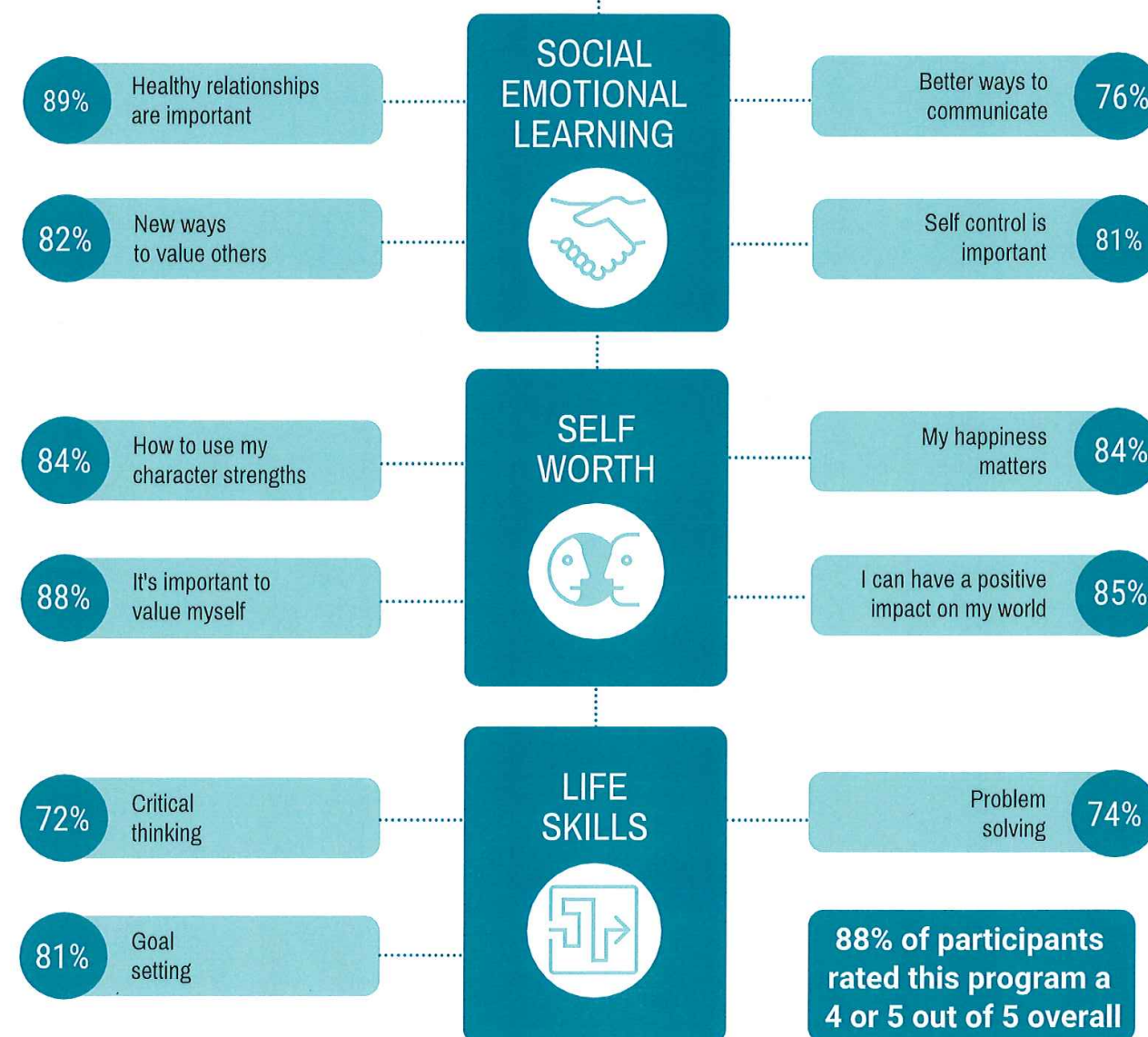
Discover You has also impacted our staff; one teacher shared that he was unaware of the depth of challenges that his students faced on a daily basis and only found out about the needs through participation in the program.

We offered Discover You during both semesters this past year and impacted over 400 students and 10 staff. The ROCK Discover You program will be offered to 11 programs and 500 students will be impacted. This has not only impacted students at our Career Center, it is also reaching out to Bay and Arenac communities. We look forward to future trainings and truly thank all who have supported this experience.



## 2018-19 Semesters 1 & 2 BAISD Career Center

Percent of students on post-surveys that agreed they learned these skills



138 post-survey responses for first semester  
216 post-survey responses for second semester

Discover You is a subsidiary of The ROCK Center for Youth Development: [www.therockc4yd.org](http://www.therockc4yd.org) | 989.835.2542



BAISD Adult and Continuing Education continues to serve students ages 16 years old and up through technical training and those pursuing their high school diploma or GED. We strive to provide support, programs, and scheduling that accommodate our students' needs. We offer classes late afternoon and evening at the Career Center and morning and afternoon at Bay City and Standish MiWorks! Our referral process and partnership with MiWorks! has resulted in many new opportunities for our students.

This is the first school year that we have adopted our restructured Welding Program curriculum that allows students the opportunity to earn one or more welding qualifications in three semesters. This restructure has drawn many more students to our welding program as our enrollment doubled this school year. We are looking forward to many returning students who are moving on to earn their qualifications this upcoming school year.

This is the second year that our Education Delivering Great Employees (EDGE) program has been offered and this year we were able to serve more students as we were able to run additional sessions of some of the training programs. This is a tuition-free training program for adults who are in need of their high school diploma or GED and are 18 years of age as of July 1st of the current school year and whose graduating class has graduated. This has been an outstanding opportunity for adults in our community who are in need of both career training and their high school credential. Career Technical Training programs offered in 2018-2019 were Bridge to Healthcare with CNA Training, Welding, Construction and CNC Machining. Upon completion of the program, EDGE participants had the opportunity to be placed into an entry-level job in their chosen career pathway. Of the 60 participants, 29 were placed into employment and 21 completed their high school diploma or GED. Those who did not complete are returning in the fall.



BAISD Adult & Continuing Education continues to be a testing site for the ETS Parapro and GED tests. We have tested more students this past school year than in the past several years.

Our graduating class included 56 who earned their high school diploma or GED. Our program served 255 academic and 113 Career Technical Training students during the 2018-2019 school year.



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 2,505 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, 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	2
Curriculum Coach	1

Bay-Arenac ISD currently has 23 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 14 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 district 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 the 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 impacts their progress in the curriculum. Students come to our programs from local education agencies (LEAs) or Early Childhood Special Education Programs (ECDD).

### 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 students 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 2016-2017 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

Bay-Arenac ISD has made significant changes to our early intervention service delivery model in 2018-2019. Acquisition of the State School Aid Act Section 54 D grant was used to double home visits to students being serviced in Early On only. Furthermore, changes in staffing have allowed the BAISD Early On department to embrace a one-tiered service delivery model that provides all students with access to highly qualified staff assigned to the student, on the basis of their individual needs, through the Primary Service Delivery Model. Continued success has been identified through a 14% increase in referrals to Early On and enhanced professional development for staff assigned to infant toddler programming. BAISD's results and compliance indicators as evidenced through the State Performance Plan also demonstrate that 100% of our students receive a timely provision of special education services and 100% of students have timely transition plans by their 3rd birthday

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION

Early Childhood Special Education staff dedicated the 2018-2019 school year to a variety of initiatives aimed at improving student growth. To begin, staff strengthened their transition practices by enhancing communication with local education agencies, designing universal high-quality transition plans, and revisiting IEP accommodations and related service plans to ensure students had the necessary supports as they transition to center based and local programs. Furthermore, ECSE teams continue to work closely with Early Childhood Specialists to align their curriculum to that of general education programs and enhance the rigor of their own classrooms. Targeted concepts include professional development such as curriculum fidelity, using assessment to drive instruction, high quality classroom environments, and early literacy development.

## GREAT START COLLABORATIVE

The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) was busy developing and implementing multiple early childhood systems change projects over the past year. The GSC is structured under three (3) areas of community-based goals and projects.

### 1. EMPOWERING STRONG FAMILIES CONTINUES TO BUILD PROTECTIVE FACTORS AND RESILIENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY VIA THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

- Serving a home visiting advisor to support all home visiting programs, including Starting Strong, Early Head Start and the Maternal Infant Health Program.
- Supporting the Make Parenting a Pleasure courses, in partnership with the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region, Bay Area Community Foundation and United Way of Bay County.
- Supporting the Maternal Child Health Assessment and Plan in partnership with the Bay County Health Department.
- Mitigating Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by building resilience with multiple partners, including the Michigan Health Improvement Alliance (MiHIA).

### 2. PROMOTING PROVIDER PARTNERSHIPS EFFORTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Supporting the Safe Journey initiative to prevent alcohol, tobacco and other drug use before,

during and after pregnancy.

- Continuation of the Great Lakes Bay MotherBaby Cafes to provide relational peer support and resources for new mothers.
- Developing the Great Start Dads meetup groups to support fathers.
- Continuation of the Early Childhood Service Providers meetings to provide technical and peer support for cross-sector early childhood professionals across our community.

### 3. HIGH QUALITY LINKS TO EARLY LEARNING STRATEGIES INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Developing increased high quality infant-toddler care and other wrap-around child care capacity in partnership with New Hope Bay/Dow Bay Area Family Y, the Arenac Community Center and Au Gres-Sims Schools.
- Continue supporting the Early Childhood Directors and Connections groups.
- Facilitating efforts to bolster early numeracy/math and literacy.

## 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 over 500 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.

## IMAGINATION LIBRARY

In early 2019, Bay-Arenac ISD Imagination Library received a generous grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the Consumers Energy Foundation. Since the inception of the program in Bay and Arenac Counties in January 2005, more than 685,000 books have been delivered. Currently, there are almost 4000 children in Bay and Arenac Counties currently enrolled in Imagination Library, costing just over \$8000 each month to purchase and ship books. The Imagination Library is completely funded through private and foundation donations, as well as grant awards.

## 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 three! Bay-Arenac enrolled 209 qualified children. 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. Math in the Mail was one of the local non-profits selected to be part of the inaugural #TeamUp event at the Great Lakes Bay Invitational. Math in the Mail was awarded \$17,000 as a participant which will help continue to fund this program in the region.

The Great Lakes Bay Region Early Childhood STEM Passport Project came about as a recommendation from the STEM Access/Equity Committee, an ad hoc committee of the Out-of-School Time STEM Network. Recognizing that some children do not have equal access to STEM assets, the committee developed the "STEM Passport" to increase awareness and reduce financial barriers related to accessing our regional STEM-rich institutions and programs. Beginning in October 2018, the passports were available to children and families in preschool through 3rd grade across the Great Lakes Bay Region. The passport featured fifteen STEM-rich institutions and community-based STEM programs including discounts, coupons and promotional advertisements.

## STARTING STRONG (PARENTS AS TEACHERS PROGRAM)

The Bay-Arenac ISD Parents As Teachers (PAT) program, or Starting Strong, served 60 families and 92 children from pregnancy to age 5 this year. Based on our demographic data, 40% of the families (n=24) were families with multiple "family stressors" or risk factors. Twenty-five percent of the families are from Arenac County and 75% of the families reside in Bay County, MI.

Other program outcomes included the following:

- 93.8% of the children are up-to-date with their immunizations and EPSDT health schedule;
- 98% of the children/families have health insurance and a medical home/primary care doctor;
- 88% of the families achieved at least one family goal based on their Family Risk Assessments and child and family goals;
- 100% of the children are current with their developmental screenings;
- 92% of families achieved the required home visiting attendance frequency;
- 100% of families increased their parenting performance on the Parenting Interactions with Children: Checklist of Observation instrument (PICCOLO) by an average of 2 raw points in the domains of Encouragement and Teaching.

Finally, 2020 will be a compliance monitoring review year for the Starting Strong program. The team spent all of 2019 preparing for Quality Endorsement Review, including developing a manual for the program and adopting the Parents As Teachers National Center (PATNC) "Data in Motion" forms. Starting Strong submitted the Annual Performance Review (APR) in August 2019, performed a Self-Assessment based on our APR analysis in October 2019 and will be undergoing PATNC monitoring in 2020.