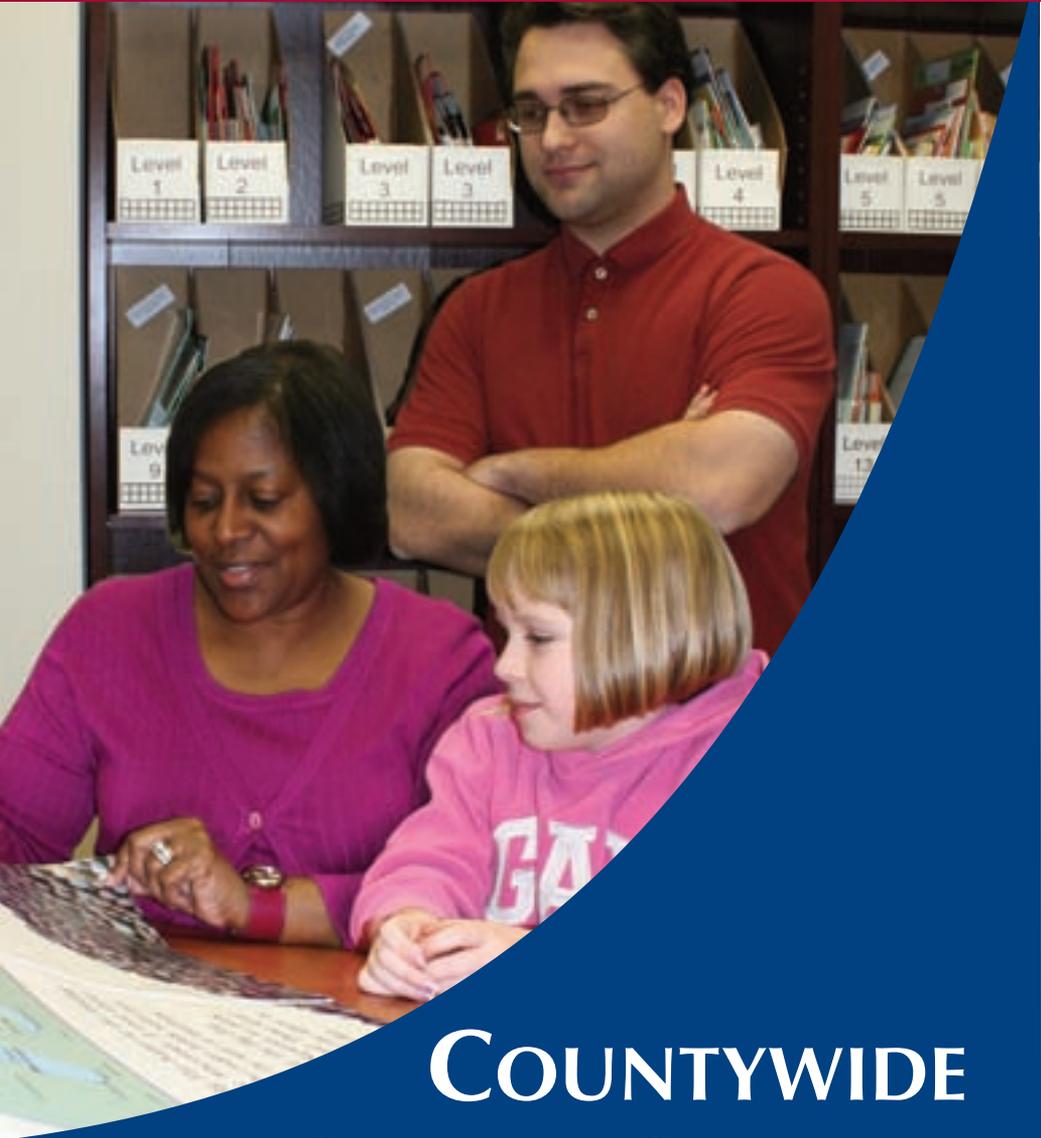




Jackson County ISD
an Educational Service Agency



COUNTYWIDE SHARED SERVICES

Efficient and effective programs for student achievement



Jackson County ISD
an Educational Service Agency

BOARD OF EDUCATION

David K. Salsbury, *President*
Robert L. Moles, *Vice President*
Shirley A. Larson, *Secretary*
Kevin R. Tuckey, *Treasurer*
Douglas R. Schedeler, *Trustee*

6700 Browns Lake Road, Jackson, MI 49201 • 517.768.5200
www.jcisd.org

A Word or Two About Shared Services

Why are shared services provided by the Jackson County Intermediate School District important to our schools and community?

The current economy in this state has put a demand on all schools to adjust to drastic budget cuts while – at the same time – improving student achievement. Therefore, it is even more important for our community to understand what services, programs, and opportunities are available through the Jackson County ISD, and how local school districts and the JCISD work together to deliver quality education more efficiently and effectively.

Throughout our history, the JCISD has been committed to the success of all students. Sometimes we do this by leading initiatives for our local school districts, while at other times, we're asked to provide services, programs or resources. The Jackson County Superintendents Association and JCISD employees continuously look for ways to work collaboratively – to find new methods and resources to help students succeed. That means by the time this pamphlet is printed, we already may have added to the list of ways we provide countywide services for our students and school districts.

Our community has the right to be proud when it looks at the many accomplishments of shared educational services already in place. At the same time, the community has the duty to look to local school districts and the JCISD to continue to save costs while providing for our children's future.

Together, we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.



Kevin Oxley
Superintendent

Countywide Shared Services

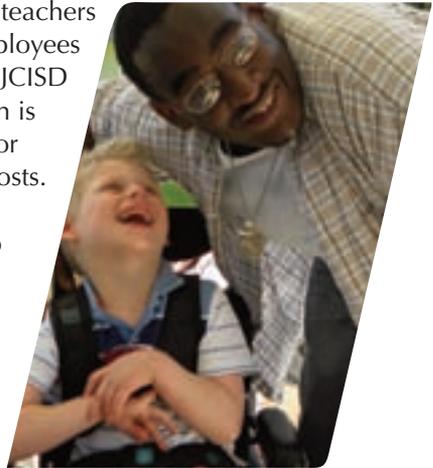
Special Education District Services

The Jackson County ISD provides students from all 12 public school districts, three local charters, and various parochial schools in the county with the finest special education services available. By concentrating these services under one umbrella, the county has saved millions of dollars while providing state- and federal-mandated services to students. In addition, the JCISD is one of a few educational service agencies in Michigan to reimburse local school districts for nearly all of their special education costs, thanks in part to the strong support voters have shown through a countywide millage.

Special education and resource room teachers in most districts are usually JCISD employees or their positions are paid for through JCISD flow-through dollars. Over \$13 million is annually distributed to local schools for reimbursement of special education costs.

Ancillary services also are provided to special needs students in local school districts by the JCISD and include:

- psychologists,
- speech therapists,
- occupational and physical therapists,
- social workers,
- and teacher consultants.



These teams of specialists work closely with teachers, administrators, and families in each district on an individual education plan (IEP) for the student. The ISD maintains records on behalf of 4,100 students receiving special education services within Jackson County schools.

Tarrant and Young Centers

The JCISD operates center-based programs for severely-cognitive impaired (SCI), severely-multiply impaired (SXI), and autistic students at the Tarrant Center and at locations throughout Jackson County.



At the Kit Young Center, special education students 18-26 years old are trained in Community Focused Instruction.

The two centers and the center-based programs in the local districts are managed by one principal and service over 200 students each year.

Medicaid Billing

The JCISD Special Education and Technology Departments have teamed up with an outside vendor to develop EXCENT Tera – a software package that makes student record keeping more efficient and assists schools with billing Medicaid for eligible services. Local county school use of this software is funded by the JCISD.

The software is currently being enhanced and expanded to include RTI (Response to Intervention) for general education students. Because of the JCISD’s partnership in developing the new software, local schools will continue to benefit by being able to use it free of charge. The annual savings for Jackson County Schools will be more than \$100,000.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook Lake
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	Jackson Arts & Tech.
Hanover-Horton	Springport	

Countywide Shared Services

Transportation Services

Jackson County ISD buses travel the four corners of the county, transporting nearly 500 special education students from all local public school districts to 35 different buildings, and putting over 800,000 miles on vehicles each year. The JCISD saves local schools hundreds of thousands of dollars each year by transporting students in all districts using trained personnel on task-specific buses.

The JCISD regularly purchases buses at no cost to local districts. The Transportation Department employs just one full-time mechanic who maintains its fleet of 38 buses as well as other ISD vehicles. The JCISD regularly passes the Michigan State Police safety inspection with perfect scores despite the increased number of checkpoints on Special Education buses.



JCISD bus drivers and attendants receive regular training in emergency evacuation, crisis intervention, seizure responses, first aid, emergency weather procedures and advanced bus driver training.

The JCISD coordinates and facilitates a variety of services to assist local districts in safely operating their transportation programs, including training for beginning bus drivers and continuing driver workshops and certification.

Assistive Technology Services

Through its lending resources, the JCISD provides technology and specialized tools to help students better read, communicate, etc., as well as instruction on how to use these resources. Many students depend on these technologies in their daily living or to learn new skills. The ISD adds approximately \$10,000 worth of new equipment each year and has over \$200,000 of inventory ready to loan.

Technology Services

Jackson County ISD technology services have been expanding at a rapid rate in recent years. The JCISD now serves as the technology department for nine (9) of the 12 local school districts.

Jackson County is in a great position to provide technology to students and schools thanks to the forethought of building a fiber optic network that connects all of the local school districts. This fiber also connects the schools to other community agencies, including the Jackson County Tower Building, Courts, Sherriff's Department and jail, JTV, Baker College, some township facilities, and most Jackson County District Library buildings.

Local districts using the JCISD technology department save dollars by doing so, but more importantly, are building capacity for future technology needs by working together more effectively and efficiently.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Hanover-Horton	Napoleon
Concord	Jackson Public	Springport
East Jackson	Michigan Center	Vandercook Lake

Online Learning

Many online learning opportunities exist for students in Jackson County through a collaborative relationship with Genesee ISD, e2020 portal purchases, and the purchase of Life Size video conferencing units available in several local districts.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Hanover-Horton	Northwest
Concord	Jackson Public	Springport
East Jackson	Michigan Center	Vandercook Lake
Grass Lake	Napoleon	Western

Countywide Shared Services

Business Services

For the last several years, the Jackson County ISD has been preparing to help districts manage a menu of customized financial and business services. In 2009, the ISD took on payroll, accounts payables, and budget reporting/planning for a local school district. A charter school was added in 2010.

The potential for taking on services for more districts in the next few years is real and exciting. The JCISD added capacity is fueling discussions with several districts about potential business service collaborations in 2011.

In order to better assist local districts with business services, the JCISD purchased, trained, and has been using the MUNIS software system. The JCISD is working collaboratively on MUNIS with Muskegon Area ISD, which provides the software, hosting and technology services for far less cost than using the software without the collaborative arrangement.

Participating Districts

Concord
daVinci

Grant Writing

Since contracting a part-time grant writer position in 2004, the JCISD Grant Writer has secured over \$4 million in education grants for Jackson County school districts at no charge to local districts.

The grants have been used to fund a variety of projects, programs, professional development opportunities, and materials for programs at various levels and schools.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Michigan Center	daVinci
Concord	Napoleon	Jackson Arts & Tech.
East Jackson	Northwest	Paragon
Grass Lake	Springport	Jackson Christian
Hanover-Horton	Vandercook Lake	Lumen Christi
Jackson Public	Western	

Substitute Employee Services

The Jackson County ISD coordinates over 800 substitute employees for school districts using a web-based computerized management system (AESOP). The system automates absence entry, substitute selection, substitute notification and assignment, and even payment. The system operates 24/7/365, and is checked by ISD personnel on a daily basis. Thirteen (13) districts currently take advantage of the AESOP system.

Working in collaboration with Professional Education Services Group (PESG), the JCISD has been able to help local school districts save thousands of dollars each year by providing training and background checks and eliminating expensive employment costs.

Participating Districts

Concord	Michigan Center	Western
Grass Lake	Napoleon	daVinci
Hanover-Horton	Northwest	Jackson Arts & Tech.
Jackson Public	Springport	
JCISD	Vandercook Lake	

Fingerprinting Services

When the state legislature first mandated extensive background checks on all educators – past and future – the JCISD stepped up to the plate by purchasing electronic fingerprint scanning technology and providing technicians and assistance to all county public schools, non-public schools, and at least one area college and non-profit service agency. During the last few years, the JCISD has submitted some 4,800 fingerprints to state law enforcement agencies for review.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook Lake
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	Jackson Arts & Tech.
Hanover-Horton	Springport	Paragon

Countywide Shared Services

Learning Services

Providing professional development and support for teachers, administrators, support staff and bus drivers is at the core of the JCISD's mission. The JCISD saves local districts thousands of dollars every year by providing quality, collaborative workshops and trainings in assessments, data, curriculum and content. The JCISD assists and/or works cooperatively with other ISDs on curriculum, professional development opportunities, and state and federal grants, including Lenawee, Hillsdale, Wayne, Monroe, and Washtenaw ISDs.

The JCISD's current focus is to help local school districts with research-based, data-driven initiatives to improve student achievement and plans for continuous school improvement. One of the JCISD's recent grant-funded initiatives – EETT (Enhancing Education Through Technology) earned the JCISD state and national recognition for innovative programming.

Under the new Race to the Top legislation, the Learning Services department is providing services to local districts on creating and implementing school improvement plans and generating grants. A particular focus of the Learning Services department is improving College and Career Readiness in our secondary schools.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Michigan Center	daVinci
Concord	Napoleon	Jackson Arts & Tech.
East Jackson	Northwest	Paragon
Grass Lake	Springport	Jackson Area
Hanover-Horton	Vandercook Lake	Catholic Schools
Jackson Public	Western	

Data-Driven Decision-Making

To help schools better assess their strengths and weaknesses – and change practices and/or curriculum to increase student performance – the JCISD offers trainings and coaching for the following programs:

- **DATA DIRECTOR** is the software behind the countywide data warehouse. This web-based application allows districts to store and analyze data from MEAP, MME, EXPLORE®, PLAN®, and Countywide Common Assessments, as well as their own assessments. Teachers and administrators use this data to improve their decision-making within the classroom.



- **DATA RETREAT®** Workshops are designed to provide teams of educators from schools and districts a process that follows a proven eight-step model. This model allows schools to plan, implement, and evaluate their building and district improvement plans throughout the year so that the focus for the year is based on an individual school's and/or district's data and is results driven.
- **REGIONAL DATA INITIATIVE:®** The JCISD is a key player in a collaborative effort involving 13 ISDs and using ARRA funding to create a regional student database. The RDI initiative will provide educators with realtime access to student records and the opportunity to better differentiate and individualize instruction.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook Lake
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	
Hanover-Horton	Springport	

Response to Intervention Trainings

Response to Intervention (RTI) is a comprehensive assessment and intervention process that identifies students in general education classes who are at risk. RTI monitors academic progress and delivers interventions according to the degrees of intensity and teacher expertise. RTI is a tiered framework: Tier 1 are classroom interventions and Tiers 2-3 are supplemental to the classroom and provided by a teacher intervention specialist.

The JCISD provides workshops, trainings, and follow-up coaching. The RTI Tier 1 course is designed to provide classroom teachers with the strategies and knowledge to increase literacy achievement in the classroom. The course content focuses on evidenced-based best practices for all children and differentiation of instruction guided by assessment data. Teachers will use a variety of materials including the Developmental Reading Assessment and the “Units of Study for Primary Writing” and “Teaching Writing Grades 3-8” by Lucy Calkins. JCISD trainers provide ongoing site support to participating teachers and buildings.

Curriculum-Focused Dialogue & Networking Meetings

Curriculum-focused dialogue meetings are for school district leaders to discuss and receive information on course content, best practices, new resources, updates on new state and federal regulations, operations, and other curriculum-related topics.

In addition, the Learning Services Department provides opportunities for teachers from throughout the county to discuss and network in the following content-specific areas:

- Reading Recovery
- Mathematics
- Science
- English Language Arts
- Secondary Special Education Teachers
- Social Studies

Collaborative Trainings

In order to help reduce the achievement gap between identified student groups as required by No Child Left Behind regulations as well as other state and federal government rules, the JCISD is helping local school districts by providing collaborative trainings for general education and special education teachers. The training teaches both groups evidenced-based best practices and programs. This year's training opportunities focus on high school students.

These trainings include:

- **SELCT** (Special Education Literacy Connections Training): The Jackson County ISD, in conjunction with Wayne RESA, is providing balanced literacy training to special education teachers. This training focuses on assessment and early intervention strategies.
- **MISE** (Mathematics Instruction for Special Education): County resource room teachers focus on building a deeper understanding of the state mathematics standards to create differentiation strategies that will increase student learning.
- **Co-TEACHING STRATEGIES**: The JCISD is helping classroom and special education teachers develop a sustainable relationship that allows for true sharing of classroom instruction, management and planning. The training presents six models of co-teaching as defined by Marilyn Friend and has nearly 90 teachers participating from nine Jackson County districts.

These co-teaching trainings developed from a need expressed at the JCISD Curriculum Dialogue meetings. An advisory committee was developed to create strategies and a training that would meet the needs of Jackson County teachers. Calhoun ISD staff also contributed to the training design based on the work they have been doing.

- **HEALTH INSTRUCTION for CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS**: The JCISD is piloting a program to provide direct Health instruction to students in self-contained EI and CI classrooms in three local elementary schools. The program helps students build skills, set goals, and improve their overall health. Research has shown that having these skills are important to students' overall academic and social success.

Countywide Shared Services

Literacy Trainings

The JCISD offers a variety of literacy trainings and is one of only a few ISDs to offer Reading Recovery® training programs in the state. The JCISD has trained 58 teachers in Reading Recovery and served over 1,800 students to date. Literacy coordinators also provide other trainings to schools, including:

- **CALKINS WRITING:** Lucy Calkins

Units of Study are designed to help elementary teachers teach a rigorous year-long writing curriculum. This curriculum gives children unbelievable power as readers, thinkers, and composers of meaning and gives teachers new energy and joy.



- **READING RECOVERY®:** Reading Recovery is a short-term, early intervention literacy program designed for children who are at risk of failing to learn to read in first grade. Reading Recovery enables the lowest-achieving learners to make accelerated progress, catch up with grade-level peers, and profit from regular classroom reading instruction. By intervening early, Reading Recovery can halt the debilitating cycle of failure for at-risk children. Reading Recovery researchers have amassed 20 years of data to provide substantial evidence of the program's effectiveness.

Student Information Systems

The Jackson County ISD's Learning Services and Technology Departments are working together to provide the county with a common student information warehouse that will provide:

- county educators with common data;
- teaching staffs with quality comparative data for better decision making in curriculum and school improvement planning;
- parents with 24-hour access to grades and attendance;
- an overall savings to school districts.

The JCISD is also providing PowerSchool training for local school districts. PowerSchool is the student database selected by the Shared Technology Consortium committee.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	Jackson Area
Hanover-Horton	Springport	Career Center

Early Childhood Services

Services to over 300 children from ages 0-6 are provided through JCISD Special Education services, including diagnosing, testing, evaluation, and interventions. These early childhood services are critical in preparing some students for the start of school.

The JCISD partners with Head Start to provide space for pre-school classrooms at the Tarrant Center. Additionally, ancillary services (e.g. speech, OT/PT) are provided by JCISD personnel to infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers.

The JCISD is also a partner with Jackson's Great Start Collaborative and the Great Parents, Great Start Grant. This collaboration provides resources to preschoolers, parents, teachers and caregivers.

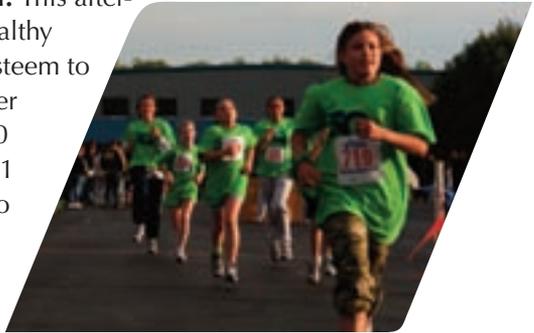
In 2008, the JCISD began providing school readiness assessments to help give early childhood educators the data needed to improve instruction in pre-school programs.

Countywide Shared Services

Coordinated School Health, Safe & Drug Free Schools Programming

The JCISD generates \$600,000 in state, federal and other grants annually to provide a broad range of services to all Jackson and Hillsdale County school districts at no charge, including:

- **COORDINATED SCHOOL HEALTH:** This cutting edge strategy to improving district-wide student achievement was introduced in 2005. Since then, Jackson Public Schools has been recognized nationally for its efforts and successes. Currently, 10 districts and two charter schools are implementing coordinated school health programs.
- **GIRL QUEST / BOY QUEST:** This after-school program delivers healthy messages and higher self-esteem to pre-teens. Over 40 volunteer coaches work with 200-250 students each semester at 11 participating school sites. To date, over 2,000 students have taken part in the 5K run/walks at the end of each session.



- **MICHIGAN MODEL FOR HEALTH:** This nationally-acclaimed school health education program is currently being implemented in all 12 districts and each of the three charter schools in Jackson County. The JCISD provides professional development and support to grades K-12 classroom teachers for this program. In addition, through a federal USDA program, the JCISD is working with schools that have a high rate of low-income families to take advantage of the SPLASH Project (Shaping Positive Lifestyles and Attitudes through School Health). The project provides free professional development for teachers, free health and physical education curriculum materials, and funding for nutritional education outreach to parents and the greater community. Currently 12 schools are participating in SPLASH.

...Continued Coordinated School Health

- **MOST TEENS DON'T:** The JCISD is working collaboratively with other community agencies to implement this social-norming campaign. Students from school districts throughout the county have participated actively in the campaign development and are continuing to share the message that “Most Teens Don’t” take part in risky behaviors. Local and state grants are helping support this student/media campaign.
- **REDUCED UNDERAGE DRINKING AND DRIVING:** Tenth-grade students throughout the county hear the real story about drinking and driving from law enforcement officers and those who have been affected.
- **SAFETYVILLE:** Elementary students from across the county learn basic safety rules at this “miniature city”. The program is run in cooperation with area law enforcement agencies. Some 2,000 elementary school students visit Safetyville annually – over 36,000 since the program’s inception in 1989.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Michigan Center	daVinci
Concord	Napoleon	Jackson Arts & Tech.
East Jackson	Northwest	Paragon
Grass Lake	Springport	Jackson Christian
Hanover-Horton	Vandercook Lake	Jackson Area
Jackson Public	Western	Catholic Schools

Countywide Shared Services

Pupil Accounting

The Jackson County ISD assists local school districts with pupil accounting and reporting to the state – a vital service to districts that depend on student counts for their state foundation allowance. During the last few years, the JCISD has helped local districts transition to new online software that has made entry of accurate data even more critical to state funding.

The JCISD also provides training and updates for other reports that schools are required by law to give to their ISD or the Michigan Department of Education. The JCISD facilitates the McKinney-Vento Grant, which provides thousands of dollars to help local schools provide services for homeless students.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook Lake
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	Paragon
Hanover-Horton	Springport	Jackson Arts & Tech.

Attendance Monitoring

The JCISD employs a county truancy officer at no charge to local school districts. This truancy officer works with families and schools to improve attendance, as well as the Jackson County prosecutor to enforce school attendance laws. Each year, the truancy officer handles over 500 referrals, with close to half of those cases closed with improved attendance. Over 100 cases are usually referred each year to Juvenile Court.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Michigan Center	daVinci
Concord	Napoleon	Jackson Arts & Tech.
East Jackson	Northwest	Paragon
Grass Lake	Springport	Jackson Christian
Hanover-Horton	Vandercook Lake	Jackson Area
Jackson Public	Western	Catholic Schools

Inter-District Delivery Service

The Jackson County ISD continues to deliver tens of thousands of letters and packages each year between school districts and the JCISD to save both time and money.

In order to better use its resources, the JCISD picks-up and delivers once a week to all school districts and related community agencies.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Michigan Center	daVinci
Concord	Napoleon	Jackson Arts & Tech.
East Jackson	Northwest	Paragon
Grass Lake	Springport	Jackson Area
Hanover-Horton	Vandercook Lake	Catholic Schools
Jackson Public	Western	

Educators Directory Information

JCISD Communications has made the Countywide Educators Directory available online both as a .PDF and a searchable data-base. The online version of the directory saves time and money while providing this important information to educators and the community.

The directory includes over 2,000 listings, including titles, assignments, phone numbers, and email addresses.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook Lake
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	Jackson Arts & Tech.
Hanover-Horton	Springport	Paragon

Countywide Shared Services

Use of Camp McGregor

Camp McGregor is an 85-acre nature site with cabins, a lodge, classroom labs, an observatory and more ... all on the shores of pristine Crispell Lake.

The Jackson County ISD has owned and operated the Camp since 1985 and hosts some 1,200 visits from students each year. Some students and classes come to participate in a one-day school activity, while others may stay the night for school or summer camps such as Astronomy Camp or JAMA's popular "I Can Make It" Camp.



The lodge, bunk houses, classroom labs, project stations, observatory and beach are available for use to all local school districts at little or no cost. *(Call 529-0002 for more info).*

Participating Districts

Columbia

Grass Lake

Jackson Public

Michigan Center

Vandercook Lake

Lumen Christi

Trinity Lutheran

Energy Conservation

The JCISD is saving major dollars by collaborating with Jackson Public Schools. Rather than being the service provider in this situation, the JCISD is the user, taking advantage of JPS' energy management director who is trained and well-versed in the Energy Educators Inc. program. The JCISD has reduced energy usage by well over 25% since starting the program in July 2010, which projects to saving \$150,000 in energy costs in the first year.

Mathematics & Science Center

Jackson County is one of 33 counties in Michigan to have its own Mathematics & Science Center. State and federal grant monies flow through the JCISD's Mathematics & Science Center to provide research-based programs for our schools at virtually no cost to the district.

Through facilities at the Kratz Education Center and Camp McGregor, the JCISD Mathematics and Science center provide services in these six areas:



LEADERSHIP: Throughout all programs, the JCISD develops teachers and community leaders who will promote and sustain a shared vision for high expectations in mathematics and science education.

STUDENT SERVICES: Most student services are offered at Camp McGregor where two fully-equipped classrooms/labs are available for local district use. In addition, an observatory that features two of the most high-tech telescopes in the state can be reserved for instructor use. The JCISD provides materials and training for:

- Astronomy Camp/Free Community Observatory Viewings
- Dino Dig: Elementary Field Studies
- Waterfest: "You, Water and the Environment"
- DNA Electrophoresis
- Pro-solve
- TiViTz County and State Competitions
- Cedar Point Math and Physics Day



Countywide Shared Services

...Continued Mathematics & Science Center

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The Center strengthens and updates teaching practices by offering the following programs and workshops based on current research and local needs:

- High School Mathematics and Science Success Grant
- Michigan Mathematics and Science Teacher Leadership Collaborative
- Michigan Mathematics and Program Improvement
- Embracing Mathematics Assessment and Technology in High School
- Algebra for All
- Teaching for Sustainable Communities
- Michigan Teacher Excellent Program

CURRICULUM SUPPORT: The Center assists and supports districts with alignment of local curriculum to national and state standards.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

Many projects throughout the years have encouraged community participation. The Michigan Green Schools program has grown thanks to the support of Consumers Energy, the Dahlem Conservancy, and Recycling Jackson.



RESOURCE CLEARINGHOUSE: Through the Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant, Jackson and Calhoun Counties split \$347,935 to purchase lab equipment. The equipment is loaned free of charge to area teachers and provides many inquiry-focused experiences for students to explore concepts beyond textbooks and typical classroom situations.

Career & Technical Education Opportunities

The Jackson Area Career Center provides students with educational resources – career and high-tech classes, equipment, programs, certifications, counseling services, etc. – that otherwise would not be affordable in local school districts. Support for the Career Center comes from local taxpayers through a charter millage.

With a steady enrollment of some 1,200 students per year, the Career Center provides services to about one-third of all Jackson County juniors and seniors. Most Career Center students go on to college or other post-secondary education opportunities and can earn college credits by attending the Career Center.

The Career Center boasts some 30 different – and ever-evolving – programs. As business and employment opportunities change in the county, so do programs at the Career Center. For example, the Health Sciences program has recently grown to five different classes.



Recent state-mandated changes to graduation requirements have made receiving a diploma more challenging. The Career Center responded by benchmarking many of its programs to state standards, helping students earn high school credits while receiving hands-on learning opportunities in real-world situations and labs.

The Career Center helps many students get a head start on college. Most programs have articulated college credit agreements with Jackson Community College and many other state colleges and universities.

Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook Lake
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	Jackson Christian
Hanover-Horton	Springport	Lumen Christi

Countywide Shared Services

Summer Opportunities

The JCISD offers summer programming opportunities to students of all ages in a variety of career and technical education areas, and in special education through the Torrant and Young Centers.



Participating Districts

Columbia

Concord

East Jackson

Grass Lake

Hanover-Horton

Jackson Public

Michigan Center

Napoleon

Northwest

Springport

Vandercook

Western

daVinci

Lumen Christi

Project Lead the Way

The Career Center provides local schools with resources (computers, curriculum and training) for Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering curriculum for high school students. PLTW courses are hands-on, problem-solving experiences that challenge students. The program encourages students to find out if engineering is the career for them before going to college.

Adult & Career Enrichment

Each year, the Jackson Area Career Center Adult & Career Enrichment program enrolls some 700 adults seeking new skills and job opportunities – as well as some looking to learn a new hobby.



Career Prep

In addition to the Jackson Area Career Center, the JCISD provides local school districts vocational dollars for Career Prep purposes and Career Cruising software at no charge. JCISD Career Prep coordinators helped develop Career Cruising, an online software designed to help students find career paths and create an Education Develop Plan (EDP). Career Cruising is available to all school districts at no charge.

EPAS Assessments

Doing well on the MME and college entrance exams is more critical than ever for Jackson County students to compete on a global level. To help improve local scores, the JCISD began providing EPAS® (Educational Planning Assessment System) tests at no cost to local districts in 2008. EPAS is a pre-test to the college ACT® exam.

The JCISD Data & Assessment team helps schools implement and analyze student EPAS scores and provides appropriate intervention strategies.

Research confirms EPAS works. Students who attend schools that use EPAS make better choices in their high school courses and are more likely to score higher on the ACT college assessment.

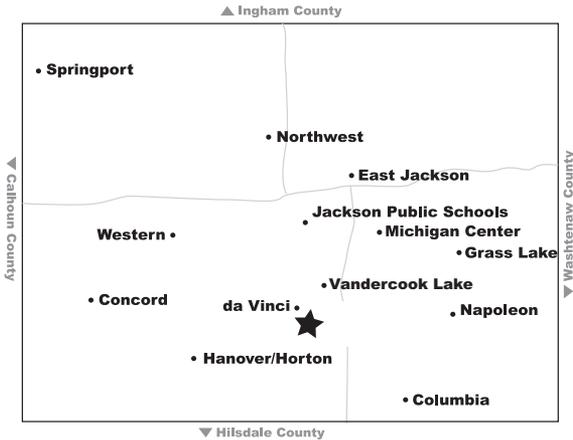
Participating Districts

Columbia	Jackson Public	Vandercook
Concord	Michigan Center	Western
East Jackson	Napoleon	daVinci
Grass Lake	Northwest	
Hanover-Horton	Springport	

Future Countywide Shared Services Currently Being Investigated

- Pooling health insurance coverages and investigating countywide best practice procedures for health care.
- Alternative Education Opportunities
- Extended Day Learning opportunities through CTE programs at the Jackson Area Career Center.
- Collaborating with other community agencies on Adult Education opportunities such as GED preparation and testing, college entry exam preparation, adult basic education and English as a Second Language programming.
- Additional Common Purchases (beyond current computer/REMC purchasing).
- Countywide International Baccalaureate options.
- Consolidated transportation efforts.





Public School Districts

- Columbia School District
- Concord Community Schools
- East Jackson Community Schools
- Grass Lake Community Schools
- Hanover-Horton School District
- Jackson Public Schools
- Michigan Center School District
- Napoleon Community Schools
- Northwest Community Schools
- Springport Public Schools
- Vandercook Lake Public Schools
- Western School District

Charter Schools

- da Vinci Institute
 - Jackson Arts & Technology
 - Paragon Charter Academy
- Also providing services to private and parochial schools
in Jackson County*