



## **2019-20 Report on the Status of the Service Consolidation Plan**

### **Shared Services that have been implemented at Clare-Gladwin RESD**

1. Technology Services – Clare-Gladwin RESD has fully integrated technology services within the ISD including internet, engineering, system management, purchasing and maintenance services.
2. Special Education Pupil Transportation Services – Clare-Gladwin RESD provides all pupil transportation services for special education students to center based programming.
3. Pupil Accounting & Auditing Services – Clare-Gladwin RESD has consolidated pupil accounting and auditing services with Midland County ESA, Gratiot-Isabella RESD and Mecosta-Osceola ISD.
4. Early Childhood Education Services – Clare-Gladwin RESD leads most aspects of general childhood education for the two counties including oversight and professional development for Mid Michigan Community Action Agency (MMCAA), Gladwin Community Schools and Harrison Community Schools.
5. Business Services – Clare-Gladwin RESD provides business consulting services to Mio Ausable School District and Farwell Area Schools.

### **Districts Participating in Technology Services with Clare-Gladwin RESD**

Beaverton Rural Schools, Clare Public Schools, Farwell Area Schools, Gladwin Community Schools and Harrison Community Schools – Total participation.

### **Districts Participating in Special Education Pupil Transportation Services**

Beaverton Rural Schools, Clare Public Schools, Farwell Area Schools, Gladwin Community Schools and Harrison Community Schools – Total participation.

### **Intermediate Districts Participating in Pupil Accounting and Auditing Services**

Clare-Gladwin RESD, Midland County ESA, Mecosta-Osceola ISD and Gratiot-Isabella RESD – Total participation

### **Districts/Agencies Participating in Early Childhood Education Services**

Mid Michigan Community Action Agency (MMCAA), Gladwin Community Schools and Harrison Community Schools – Total participation.

## **Districts and Intermediate Districts with Business Services**

Mio Ausable School District and Farwell Area Schools – Consulting services to provide mentoring to business office staff to assist with compliance of federal, state and local reporting requirements.

## **Projected Total Cost Savings Related to Each Shared Service**

1. Annual cost savings to all districts involved in the consolidated technology services are \$576,000 (calculated at time of consolidation).
2. Annual cost savings to all districts involved in the consolidated special education transportation services are \$525,000 (calculated at time of consolidation).
3. Annual cost savings to all districts involved in the consolidated pupil accounting and auditing services are negligible. However, with the ever increasing responsibilities associated with pupil accounting, districts in the consortium should be able to absorb the increased workload without hiring additional personnel.
4. Annual cost savings to all agencies and districts involved in Early Childhood Collaboration are negligible.
5. Annual costs savings to all districts receiving business services are negligible.

## **Successes related to Technology Services Consolidation**

Technology service consolidation has allowed the consortium to have technology specialists that any individual district alone could not afford. Device usage and implementation is now streamlined creating efficiencies. Delivery of instruction through technology has been greatly enhanced. Projects are competitively bid and managed, saving money.

Large and expensive equipment is shared and individual districts no longer need to purchase and manage equipment individually. Web sites are hosted and maintained through the consortium.

## **Successes related to Special Education Pupil Transportation Services**

Transportation consolidation has allowed travel times for students to be shortened across districts as bussing is not limited to district boundary lines.

By consolidating services, special education busses are purchased more frequently, allowing older busses to rotate out of usage.

## **Successes related to Pupil Accounting and Auditing Services**

Experienced auditors share information and solutions to compliance issues with the State of Michigan. The consortium will be able to minimize auditor turnover and have experienced personnel to train incoming auditors.

Trainings are coordinated with individual local districts, allowing consistency in methods and compliance.

### **Successes related to Early Childhood Education Services**

By consolidating services, Early Childhood general education has become more consistent and in line with state regulations across the two counties. Classroom staff has had many new opportunities to learn best practices and strengthen the classroom environment for our youngest pupils.

### **Successes related to Collaboration of Business Services**

Experienced business managers share information and solutions to compliance and reporting issues. The collaboration allows for experienced business officials to mentor district business managers.

Trainings are coordinated with individual local districts, allowing consistency in methods and compliance.

### **Challenges faced with Technology Service Consolidation**

Determining equitable cost sharing models and hiring and retaining quality employees continues to challenge the consortium members.

### **Challenges faced with Special Education Pupil Transportation Services**

Determining cost sharing models and allocating costs equitably to the local districts participating is time-consuming and difficult.

### **Challenges faced with Pupil Accounting and Auditing Services**

Streamlining procedures among the participants and bringing new local district participants up to speed with the new processes continues to be challenging.

### **Challenges faced with Early Childhood Education Services**

Determining and providing for the needs of the various partnering agencies can be challenging. Some programs at various agencies are administered along with federal programs that have different requirements. Providing all needed services while still creating a warm inviting preschool atmosphere can be challenging.

### **Challenges faced with Collaboration of Business Services**

Streamlining procedures and processes among the participants remotely, without increasing staff costs is a challenge. In addition, some districts continue to experience turnover in the Business Office and with key administrative positions.