



# REPORT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

**2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR**



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Thank you for your interest in the Lenawee Intermediate School District's programs and services. As we reflect on another school year at the Lenawee Intermediate School District, we remain committed to our longstanding focus on service, while looking ahead and leading through creativity, innovation, and collaboration to help create the best future for our community.

We are grateful for the continued partnerships with families, staff, local partners, and the greater community. The work of meeting the unique educational needs of all Lenawee County students, while immensely rewarding, would not be possible without the support and investment from these groups.

This report is intended to highlight some of our recent successes, projects, and focus areas that support or exhibit our core values:

- Learner-Centered
- Innovation
- Service
- Inspiring
- Future Driven
- Leadership
- Collaborative

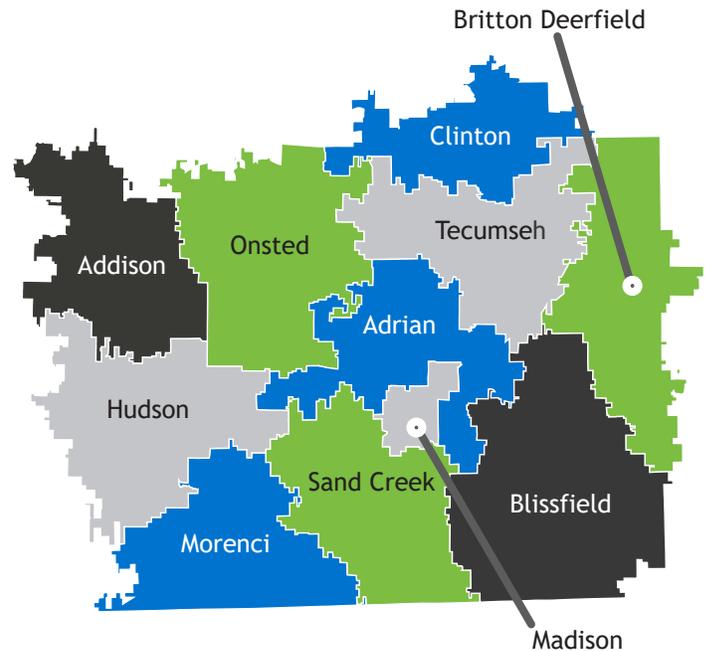
Our services are broad and extensive. To learn more about our organization, we encourage you to visit our website or follow us on social media for regular updates of current events, offerings, and accomplishments. Finally, if you have any questions or would like to know more about the Lenawee Intermediate School District, feel free to contact me directly at 517-265-1628 or [mark.haag@lisd.us](mailto:mark.haag@lisd.us).

Your partner in education,

Mark Haag, Ed.S.  
Superintendent

# ABOUT US

Lenawee Intermediate School District is a regional education service agency that supports students and schools in Lenawee County through cost-effective, high-quality educational programs and services. Lenawee County is home to nearly 15,000 public K-12 students, in addition to young children and adults who also benefit from specialized learning opportunities.



## WE OFFER SPECIALIZED SERVICES

With ever-growing needs in many different areas - including special education, STEM, career and technical education, and early childhood - local schools depend on us to fill in the gaps.



## WE EMPOWER LEARNERS

Lenawee ISD students can earn college credits, industry-recognized certifications, scholarships, and other valuable opportunities to help prepare them for a successful future.



## WE SUPPORT THE WHOLE CHILD

We are committed to the whole child model, leading the county in the development of social emotional learning systems and coordinating school mental health services.



## WE TRANSPORT STUDENTS

Our buses travel over 500,000 miles per year. The Lenawee ISD bus fleet has received a 100% pass rating from the state school bus safety inspection report each year for over a decade.



## WE TRAIN EDUCATORS

We provide quality, flexible professional learning for our local teachers, administrators, and support staff. This helps educators stay current with the latest research and best practices.



## WE SAVE SCHOOLS MONEY

We help districts save by sharing services like technology, purchasing, finance, and training. We also help lead health insurance and technology consortiums to reduce costs for schools.



## WE COLLABORATE

Lenawee ISD is an active participant and leader in local education and economic development thanks to partnerships with businesses, local agencies and nonprofits, and higher education.

# OUR MISSION AND CORE VALUES

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## OUR MISSION

Through meaningful relationships, the LISD walks side-by-side in support of every learner through personalized service, innovative programs, and engaged leadership.

## OUR PURPOSE

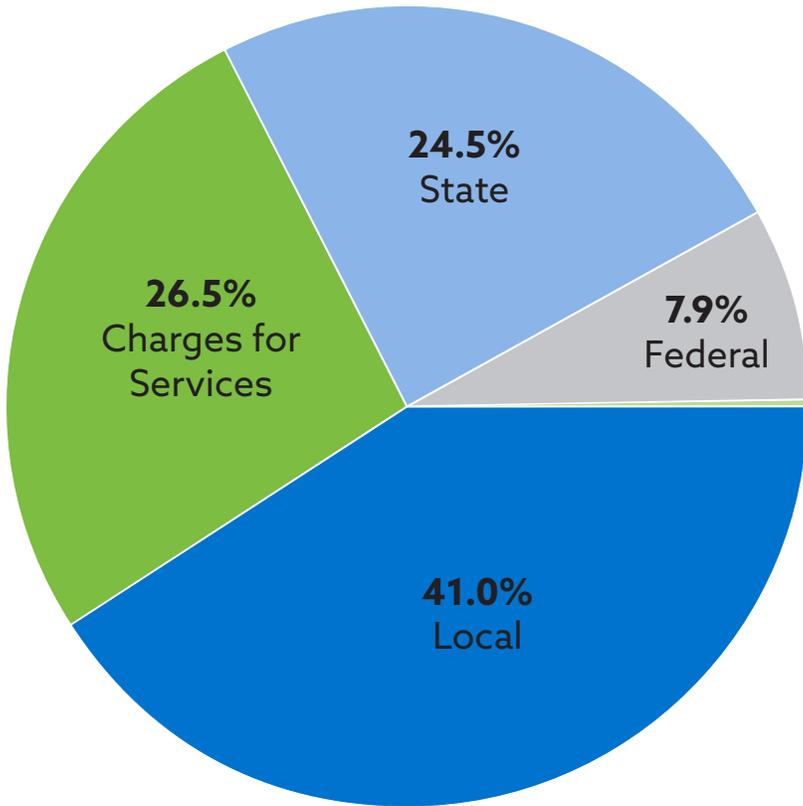
To empower learners and create opportunities for success.

## OUR VALUES

Through honest communication, mutual trust, integrity, and transparency, the LISD is an inclusionary leader in education that models the following core values with all of its stakeholders:

- The LISD is a **learner-centered** organization that believes everyone is always learning and can gain knowledge anywhere, anytime, anyplace, at any pace from anyone.
- The LISD embraces **innovation** by providing opportunities, motivation, creativity, exploration, risk taking, and experimenting.
- The LISD believes that **service** is the fundamental reason the LISD exists.
- The LISD will model an **inspiring** organization in the delivery of all its services.
- The LISD is a **future driven** organization that embraces continuous improvement, change, new technology and will lead in research for academic, professional development and operational best practices.
- The LISD will **lead** by practicing, cultivating, and developing **leadership** opportunities through service, partnerships, and collaboration.
- The LISD will be a **collaborative** organization that seeks input, listens to students, local school districts and all stakeholders, embraces teamwork, and works together to improve opportunities and learning.

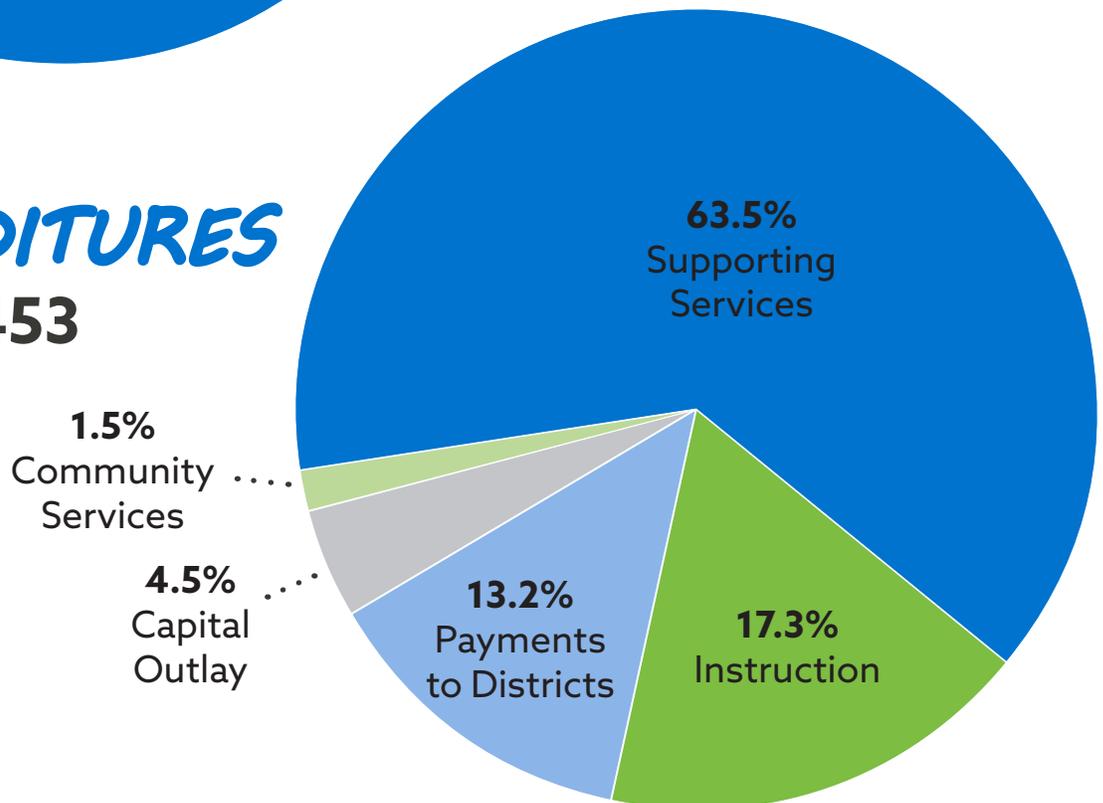
# OUR FINANCIALS



**REVENUES**  
**\$81,827,651**

0.1%  
Sale of  
Fixed Assets

**EXPENDITURES**  
**\$79,233,453**



# SPECIAL EDUCATION



## AT A GLANCE

Special education encompasses a wide range of instructional programs and support services to students with disabilities. In Michigan, these services are provided from birth through age 26.

The LISD collaborates closely with local school districts and families to provide comprehensive, whole child supports. Our services include everything from in-district classroom support to the operation of specialized classrooms, enabling children to achieve academic, social, and functional growth according to their unique learning needs and plans. Assistive technology is used to fully engage students.



**1,412**

LOCAL DISTRICT STUDENTS SUPPORTED BY LISD STAFF



**547**

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



**431**

STUDENTS AGES 0-26 IN LISD-OPERATED SE PROGRAMS



**168**

CHILDREN AGES 0-3 SERVED THROUGH EARLY ON®

# COMMUNICATION SUPPORT TOOLS

This year, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) was a major point of emphasis in local special education. AAC encompasses the communication methods used to supplement or replace speech and/or writing for individuals with speech and language impairments.

Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) is the most commonly used therapeutic approach used in Lenawee County. Using motor learning principles and a voice output communication aid, LAMP gives non-verbal students with autism and other developmental disabilities a method to develop independent and spontaneous communication. "It is much like typing on a keyboard, but with pictures and words instead of letters," said Rebecca Hoke, LAMP Trainer at The Center for AAC & Autism. "Individuals using the LAMP approach learn to use words and build sentences with their device [...] so they have a way to speak their mind, speak their heart, and ultimately be able to engage with the world around them."

LAMP Core Word Communication Boards are now located on playgrounds and in gyms and cafeterias at all Lenawee County elementary schools and LISD special education buildings, helping students better communicate with peers and staff.



LAMP Words for Life® is a pre-programmed app that combines the LAMP core word vocabulary keyboard with a voice output. Buddy iPads with this app were provided to all local elementary users so they can communicate with peers in the same way.

The LISD offered in-depth, interactive training opportunities for staff on integrating LAMP vocabulary tools into daily learning. Some LISD staff then offered board of education members a brief lesson on building sentences using motor patterns.



# STUDENTS DEVELOP WORK SKILLS



Nestled within the bustling corridors of ProMedica Charles and Virginia Hickman Hospital, a collaborative internship program is training individuals often overlooked in the workforce. Project SEARCH is rewriting the narrative for students with disabilities, paving the way for competitive local employment.

This one-year program takes place entirely within the hospital setting, serving students age 18+ with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Interns experience a combination of classroom instruction and immersive training through multiple worksite rotations, building transferable skills.

Project SEARCH then helps interns acquire paid employment within their community and offers ongoing support and coaching.

Since the program's inception in 2015, Project SEARCH has been a catalyst for change, with an impressive track record of success. Over 80% of interns who have completed the program have secured meaningful employment, creating pathways to independence and fulfillment.



*Jacob takes pride in being on time, he offers his help when we are short staffed, and he has learned various positions in our company. Being part of Jacob's growth has been an amazing experience, not just for me, but for our entire staff."*

**BEVERLY BICE, REGIONAL CONTROLLER  
COIN OP CONTINENTAL**



# RAMPING UP MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Data shows Michigan students are increasingly coping with trauma and mental health issues. This issue has only amplified during and following the global pandemic. While students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may already receive mental health services, there has been a gap in support offered to general education students statewide.

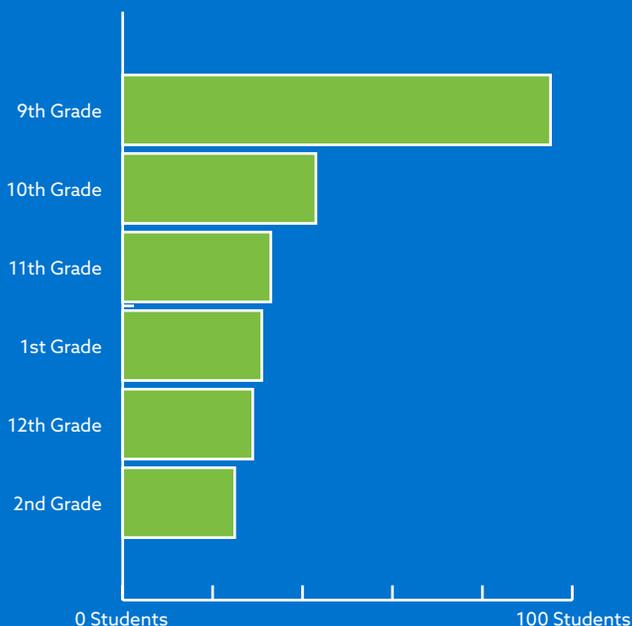
To address this need, the Michigan Legislature has allocated funds in recent years to increase direct mental health and support services for general education students. This includes 31n(6) funds for intermediate school districts to add licensed behavioral health providers within the school setting.

During the 2022-2023 school year, 31n(6) dollars in Lenawee County translated into 13 providers supporting 547 students across nearly two dozen school buildings in the county. This group of qualified providers included a combination of LISD mental health professionals and school social workers, contracted providers through a local counseling agency, and an individual district provider.

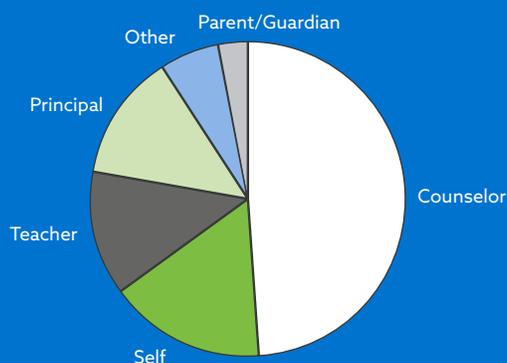
A statewide grant agreement also made available a comprehensive mental health technology platform to facilitate support, allowing schools to create referrals, screen students, plan treatment, monitor outcomes, and streamline communication in real time.

The LISD is supporting students through a tiered delivery model, offering services targeted at specific needs. The LISD has also partnered with TRAILS, a Michigan-based organization that offers training and materials for schools, particularly for students with symptoms of depression and anxiety.

## NEED BY GRADE



## REFERRAL SOURCE



## TOP REASONS

conflict with others  
 self harm  
 grief/loss  
**anxiety**  
 trauma/negative life events  
 poor impulse control  
 low self esteem  
 poor grades/attendance

# CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



## AT A GLANCE

Career and technical education (CTE) provides students with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in a wide range of high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers.

The main source of CTE opportunities in Lenawee County is the LISD TECH Center, a county-wide, collaborative facility offering more than two dozen hands-on, minds-on programs based on growing and in-demand fields in the region. Local juniors and seniors can attend the LISD TECH Center free of charge as part of their regular high school schedule.



**1,073**

STUDENTS ENROLLED AT THE LISD TECH CENTER



**1,987**

COLLEGE CREDITS EARNED BY LISD TECH CENTER STUDENTS



**33**

TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL CTE PROGRAMS IN LENAWEE



**1,425**

CTE CERTIFICATIONS EARNED COUNTYWIDE

# STUDENTS EARN VALUABLE CREDENTIALS

A growing focus at both the local and state level is to increase the percentage of students who are college ready or graduate from high school having attained a credential. A credential is defined as an industry-recognized certification(s), educational certificate, license, educational degree, or certificate of completion of an apprenticeship.

Career and technical education programs at the LISD TECH Center play a key role in helping students earn these valuable credentials, preparing them for high-wage, high-skill, and in-demand careers. During the 2022-2023 school year, 55% of LISD TECH Center students earned an industry-recognized certification, totaling 1,360 certifications earned across all programs.



Twelve LISD TECH Center students earned a Production Technician Certificate in Welding/Advanced Manufacturing from Jackson College. These credentials were in addition to the more specialized American Welding Society certifications available through the LISD TECH Center Welding Technology program.

In December, the LISD TECH Center held a Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) pinning ceremony. Twenty-six students were pinned as part of the ceremony, having met state requirements to earn a CNA certification.



Certifications validate a student's skills, knowledge, and qualifications for careers in their field. Some students showcase their credentials and work samples by connecting with regional employers at the LISD TECH Center's annual Reverse Job Fair.

# CULINARY ARTS

## FOOD HALL CONCEPT



In April, students in the LISD TECH Center Culinary Arts program presented restaurant concepts and sample menu items as part of a food hall project. Students invited friends, family, LISD staff, and local restaurateurs to attend.

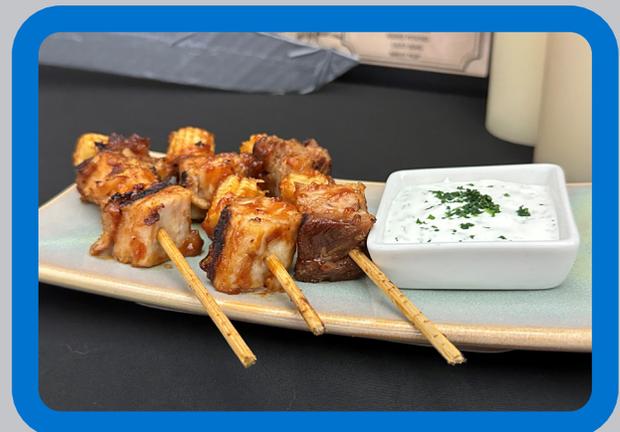
A food hall is a collection of small restaurants, usually locally-developed concepts, new creations from established chefs, or start-up restaurateurs. Food halls offer a variety of diverse food and beverage items that are often prepared from scratch. Unlike mall food courts that are designed to feed shoppers and support retailers, food halls are their own destinations with little or no retail offerings.

In addition to creating the restaurant concepts and food samples, students involved in the project had to price out a full menu and develop marketing and design elements for their restaurant. Guests were also invited to take a brief survey for each project. Food samples included pork belly skewers, mushroom risotto, tacos, pasta, jackfruit curry, breakfast omelets, and more.



*The idea behind this project is to give second-year students more leadership training and first-year students more work-based training. While second-year students set up our concepts and menus, the first-year students work in the kitchen to prepare the recipes."*

**ASHTON WYATT-MCCOMAS**  
BLISSFIELD HIGH SCHOOL



# STUDENTS BUILD TINY HOUSES FOR STATE PARK

A hallmark of the LISD is ongoing collaboration with local employers, regional partners, and community organizations. Now, a new partnership is benefitting LISD TECH Center students, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and state park visitors.

In recent years, students in the LISD TECH Center Residential Construction program have shifted from larger community housing renovation projects to building mobile tiny houses. Tiny houses, though not strictly defined, are generally accepted as fully-functional residential structures with a floor plan under 600 square feet where space is used efficiently to promote a reduction and simplification of living spaces.

Due to the smaller size of the structures, students construct two tiny houses from start to finish, thereby broadening their learning scope to encompass additional aspects of construction such as electricity and plumbing. The tiny houses were built using a trailer foundation for ease of mobility.

These tiny houses are more than a hands-on learning opportunity for students – they are part of a new partnership that adds full-amenity lodging options for campers at W.J. Hayes State Park in Onsted. Throughout the construction process, students learned how to meet accessibility standards, as well as the safety, structural, and energy efficiency inspections needed to receive certification from the National Organization of Alternative Housing.

Some of the students who helped build the tiny houses were also offered seasonal jobs at the park, affording them a glimpse into career opportunities in the natural resources field.



# INSTRUCTION & GENERAL SERVICES



## AT A GLANCE

Under the umbrella of instruction and general services, the LISD provides educators with professional learning opportunities and curriculum support, tailored to meet the evolving needs of schools and students across subject areas. This includes integrating the latest trends, requirements, and technology to enhance teaching.

The LISD also offers unique programs to ensure all students have pathways to success. STEM learning opportunities inspire curiosity and critical thinking. An early/middle college prepares students for higher education. Teens who are pregnant or parenting can receive specialized support to earn their high school diploma.



**3,623**

EDUCATORS RECEIVED  
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING



**11,642**

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL  
LEARNING HOURS



**2,527**

STUBNITZ ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION PARTICIPATION



**56**

STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED  
IN THE JC/LISD ACADEMY

# HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR SPEAKS TO STUDENTS

In a poignant moment of living history, JC/LISD Academy students were deeply moved as they listened to the personal account of Dr. Irene Butter, a courageous Holocaust survivor, at a March 2023 presentation. Dr. Butter shared her remarkable journey of survival, offering a firsthand glimpse into one of the darkest chapters of human history. This presentation offered additional opportunities for reflection to students who had previously read Dr. Butter's memoir as part of their curriculum.

Dr. Butter was born in Berlin and grew up as a Jewish child in Nazi-occupied Europe. A survivor of two concentration camps, she came to the US in 1945 and has spent the past four decades teaching students about the Holocaust. Her narrative to JC/LISD Academy students not only shed light on the atrocities she endured, but also underscored the enduring power of hope, compassion, and the human spirit.



Hosted on the Siena Heights University (SHU) campus, the 70 JC/LISD Academy students in attendance were joined by another 50 SHU students and staff members. Through Dr. Butter's presentation, students were not merely spectators to history but active participants in a shared legacy of remembrance and resilience. Students shared insights following the presentation, highlighting the authentic emotional connection provided by a firsthand account and lessons learned that apply to current global and domestic events. JC/LISD Academy was able to host Dr. Butter and purchase classroom sets of her memoir thanks to a \$1,000 grant received from the Mark Schonwetter Holocaust Education Foundation.

JC/LISD Academy is a public early/middle college program for capable and self-motivated students that exists in partnership with all 11 Lenawee County public school districts and is funded through a percentage of each district's state funding. JC/LISD Academy is designed to fully immerse high school aged students in the post-secondary learning environment, while affording them the opportunity to complete a high school diploma and associate degree through a five-year program. JC/LISD Academy also provides an alternative for students who are either struggling or do not feel connected to their high school.

# VIRTUAL REALITY AIDS MATH INSTRUCTION



LISD curriculum consultants are always seeking innovative new ways to improve learning outcomes for Lenawee County students. In late 2022, the LISD began harnessing the power of virtual reality to help students learn math concepts.

Thanks in large part to technology grants and donations, the LISD acquired 60 virtual reality (VR) headsets and the 5G hotspots necessary to connect them to reliable, high-speed internet across the rural setting of the county. LISD curriculum consultants then began training local middle and high school teachers on the software and devices before helping implement lessons in the classroom.

Using Prisms of Reality, an experiential learning platform for math, students wear VR headsets to immerse themselves in a world where math concepts come to life through spatial reasoning, movement, and three-dimensional perception. Students can learn in an interactive, self-paced environment, and teachers can monitor their progress digitally.

More than 1,100 students utilized Prisms of Reality for math during the past school year. Participating teachers have highlighted numerous benefits to their students, including more classroom engagement, better understanding of challenging concepts, and increased scores on the learning areas covered.

The LISD is expanding VR learning opportunities to include new science modules in the 2023-2024 school year.



*Prisms of Reality ditches the paper and lets students solve story problems in a real-world setting. For example, on a math problem involving weather prediction, students are able to stand inside a virtual hurricane to determine the wind speed."*

**ANN SMART**  
LISD EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY CONSULTANT

# CEMAT REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The Center for Educational Materials and Technology, or CEMaT, is an education resource provided by the LISD. CEMaT has existed for years as a resource for teachers and educational support staff, offering printing and production services and a lending library of books, games, and other classroom resources. During the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing shift to virtual learning for many students, CEMaT temporarily became a learning resource for many families.

Over the last few years, an advisory committee was tasked with leading an overhaul of the center. In January 2023, CEMaT reopened to the greater community with new services, equipment, and materials to spark creativity in learning.

CEMaT's production lab was restocked with supplies to help local educators prepare for the next school year. New equipment like the Glowforge laser printer and the Cricut smart cutting machine were acquired to offer educators and local crafters the ability to create unique and precise materials for classroom displays and fun projects.

CEMaT also transformed the library area to be more accommodating to children and is now hosting local classrooms for field trips. The spacious room is filled with books, creative play materials, learning stations, computers, and other engaging activities for visiting students. In addition, CEMaT has become a vital resource for local homeschooling families, allowing parents to check out learning materials to supplement any educational needs. Community members are invited to stop by during open hours and explore what is available.





**WWW.LISD.US**

The Lenawee Intermediate School District (LISD) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, (including sexual orientation or gender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected category in its programs and activities including employment opportunities. Limited proficiency in the English language should not be a barrier to equal participation in the instructional or extracurricular programs of the district. For questions regarding Title IX, Section 504, ADA, and non-discrimination compliance, contact:

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