A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a yellow cover and lined pages. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the pages.

*Washtenaw  
Intermediate  
School  
District*

*A Regional  
Educational  
Service  
Agency*

*2010-11*

*Established in 1962 under Michigan law*

### 1) What is Washtenaw Intermediate School District (WISD)?

WISD is one of 57 regional educational service agencies created by Michigan law in 1962 to help local school districts educate students by making the best use of district resources. WISD does this by coordinating programs and services—like special education—that are highly specialized or too expensive for any single school district to offer.



### 2) What does WISD do?

Since 1962, WISD has worked behind the scenes with its member school districts—**collectively and individually**—to help meet the needs of their students, parents, support staff, teachers, administrators and board members. At WISD, we are increasing achievement, supporting diverse communities and developing efficiencies. We do this by:

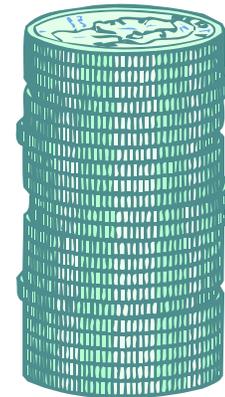
- providing local school districts with school improvement consultation, assessment services and curriculum and instruction assistance to support improved student achievement.
- offering the latest workshops, seminars and classes for teachers, administrators, transportation department staff, bus drivers, secretaries, board members, other school staff and parents, featuring up-to-date technologies, techniques and methods.
- providing consultant assistance, research assistance and resources including journals, books, curriculum materials, Internet access, videotapes, digital videodisks, computer software and assistive technology.
- coordinating programs and services that are too expensive for a single school district to operate or that are very specialized and serve only a few students, including direct educational services for youth/adults with special needs from birth through age 26.
- performing regulatory functions on behalf of the Michigan Department of Education including pupil accounting and special education monitoring and compliance.

### 3) What is an ISD millage?

Under the law, ISDs can levy millages (taxes approved by voters) to help fund programs for general, special and vocational/technical education programs. They may also levy, with voter approval, an enhancement millage. WISD is funded, in part, by millage that is levied for its general and special education programs, only.

**The 2010-2011 millage** for WISD (with the Headlee rollback):

General Education	.0984 (approved for 0.12 mill)
Special Education	<u>3.8761</u> (approved for 4.5 mills)
<b>Total mills:</b>	<b>3.9745</b>



WISD receives a fraction of a mill to fund its general education services like school improvement, professional development, assessment services, curriculum support, and compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act. (See above.) The allocated or approved amount of 0.12 mill can be (and has been) decreased or rolled back under a provision in the law called the Headlee Amendment.

WISD also levies a millage to fund countywide special education services. (See chart above.) This millage, which is also subject to the Headlee Amendment, can be increased by a vote of the people. It supports programming for nearly 7,000 students who receive special education services in the 10 local school districts of Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Lincoln, Manchester, Milan, Saline, Whitmore Lake, Willow Run and Ypsilanti and the nine public school academies.

In Michigan, schools are required to provide special education services for children who need them from the time they are born through age 26, or until they graduate from high school.

Some examples of the many special education services supported by the WISD millage are:

- **Teacher consultants** who support children with learning needs such as: dyslexia, hearing or vision impairments or physical disabilities, autism, or other developmental disabilities.
- **Special education teachers** who are specially certified to address the learning needs of children with disabilities.
- **Assistive technology and specialized materials** to help students succeed in school.
- **Training for teachers** on the best instructional practices for children with disabilities.
- **Speech, physical and occupational therapy** for children identified with these needs.

Since most of the students receiving services attend classes in their local school districts, most of the revenue generated from the millage is given to the local schools. A portion goes toward services that are provided to students in centralized programs, including High Point School on WISD's campus, and several other locations in the community.

#### 4) Who does WISD serve?

WISD's team of employees serves:

- more than 47,000 students in 10 communities
- about 4,800 public school employees in 100 buildings including teachers, principals, custodians, administrators, aides, secretaries and bus drivers
- more than 70 public school board members
- 10 public school districts
- 9 public school academies
- 21 non-public schools



#### 5) What programs/services does WISD offer?

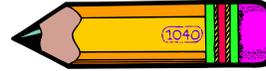
WISD provides these teaching and learning services:

- Assessment services and technical support
- Bus driver/supervisor training and safety education programs for schools in Washtenaw, Livingston and Monroe counties
- Career Pathways/Career and Technical Education program coordination
- Court involved youth education
- Distance learning
- First Steps Washtenaw and Early On parenting and school readiness support
- Grants and development assistance
- High Point School for students with developmental disabilities
- Homeless and foster care education assistance
- Information resources and teacher workroom
- Multi-media and technology training
- Nursing services for local school districts
- Programs that include students with disabilities in general education
- Regional Educational Media Services for schools in Washtenaw and Livingston counties
- School improvement assistance
- Special education coordination and consultation
- Special education programs and support services for students who have disabilities and developmental delays
- Staff development coordination and services
- Support/information for families with children who have special needs



- Teacher consultants for students with autism, physical, hearing and visual impairments
- Teleconferences (administrative and instructional)
- Teaching and learning leadership
- Workshops, seminars and classes for school and agency staff.

**WISD also provides these services:**



- Administrator assistance to local school district programs
- Business services support to public schools, public school academies and non-profit corporations
- Child Find Program for special education
- Communication consultant services including assistance with survey research, elections, and public information campaigns.
- Cooperative purchasing programs for milk and bread and media/technology hardware and software
- Directory of countywide educational services and statistics
- Home schooling information
- Property transfer requests and school district boundary information
- Pupil accounting audits, consulting and assistance
- Special education transportation coordination
- Transportation services and transportation support services for public school districts

**6) Why does WISD support professional development activities?**

- As an education leader, it is essential for WISD staff and leadership to remain current in the field of education. This is done largely through participation in national, state and local professional development activities. Participation often includes sharing WISD's innovative and best-practice programs with other educators via presentations at national, state and local conferences.
- WISD encourages and supports on-going, appropriate, professional development for its leaders and employees because WISD is most often the preferred provider of professional development for the schools it serves.

Note: WISD has board policy and guidelines covering participation in state and national continuing education, conferences and workshops and related reimbursement. WISD's internal controls and review procedures ensure that board policies are strictly enforced. WISD's supervisors, business office staff and auditors serve as three separate check points to ensure that any reimbursements are in line with board policy.

**7) How is WISD accountable to customers and the community?**

WISD has a multi-faceted accountability system including:

- A countywide special education plan that is reviewed and approved by local districts and the Michigan Department of Education
- A countywide Parent Advisory Committee that reviews the special education plan and meets regularly to discuss special education issues. Members are recommended by their district's board of education for appointment.
- The Washtenaw Association of School Boards
- The Washtenaw County Superintendents' Association which has:
  - A Six Point Plan—developed in concert with the local schools
  - An Annual Budget Review
- The Special Education Administrators who meet monthly to ensure cooperative planning and effective, efficient and equitable service
- The WISD 20/20 Long-Range Plan that is published and reviewed
- The WISD Board Goals that are set and published annually
- The High Point Parent and Staff Organization which meets regularly
- Individual Education Planning meetings that are held with parents and professionals to plan student programs
- Independent financial auditors who review WISD's books annually
- The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) that monitors WISD programs to ensure compliance with the law

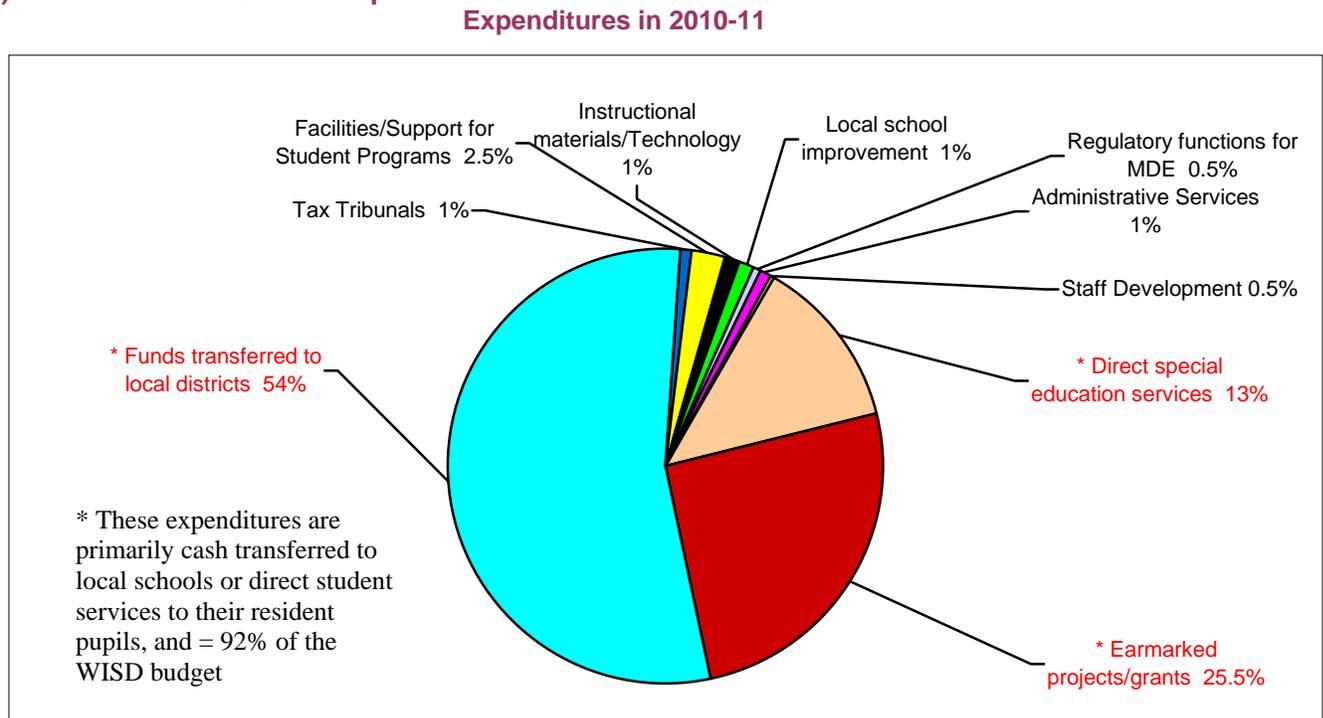


- MDE state reports that are completed quarterly, annually or as required, e.g. Single Record Student Database, Student Head Counts, Financial, Information Data Base
- Advocacy groups and associations that are dedicated to ensuring that individuals with special needs receive appropriate services, e.g. Center for Independent Living

WISD is also accountable under these State and Federal laws:

- Open Meetings Act
- Annual public budget hearings
- Freedom of Information Act
- School Code
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- Michigan's Rules for Special Education and
- No Child Left Behind Act.

## 8) Where are WISD funds spent?



## 9) How are WISD Board members elected?

Members of WISD's school board are elected biennially on the first Monday in June by a body of electors composed of one member from each constituent local school district board of education. WISD Board members' terms are staggered. Each member serves a six-year term.

## 10) Who are the WISD Board members?

The following are members of WISD's 2010-11 Board of Education:

Mark Van Bogelen, President  
 Gregory A. Peoples, Vice President  
 Dayle K. Wright, Secretary  
 Diane B. Hockett, Treasurer  
 Mary Jane Tramontin, Trustee

## 11) Where can I get more information?

Call (734) 994-8100, or visit [www.wash.k12.mi.us](http://www.wash.k12.mi.us).