



ANNUAL WEBSITE REPORT
Van Buren Intermediate School District
An Educational Service Agency
2018-2019

Introduction

The Van Buren Intermediate School District Annual Website Report is a welcome opportunity to communicate with our community about how we utilize the resources provided to us. Our spending decisions support our mission to provide the leadership, programs, and services which complement and enhance the efforts of constituent school districts in extending educational opportunities to all students.

The Van Buren Intermediate School District supports school improvement efforts, provides cost effective business solutions, offers programs for students, helps parents, and works within our community to maximize resources for all families. Just like any other business organization we issue paychecks, our staff travel to trainings and conferences, we contract with outside vendors for services, and we incur legal costs. Unlike other business organizations, we are governed by a school board selected by our customers, our local districts. Everything we do is subject to public review at any time by any person or organization.

If you simply review the numbers in this report, you have only scratched the surface of the Van Buren Intermediate School District. We invite you to dig deeper into our web site, visit our Career/Technology Education, Early Childhood Education, Migrant/Bilingual Education and Special Education departments. If you have further questions, comments, or would like to arrange for a visit, please contact our Superintendent's Office at (269) 674-8091 ext. 5200 or e-mail jmills@vbisd.org.

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Public Act 413 of 2004 amended the Revised School Code by adding [Section 620](#), which requires each intermediate school district to post information on its website by December 31 of each year beginning in 2006.

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1. General Information

The Van Buren Intermediate School District provides critical support for all public, charter and non-public schools that operate within Van Buren County. There are 56 ISDs or Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs) in the state of Michigan - no two are exactly alike. Each bases its work on the specific needs of their constituent school districts. All offer leadership, programs, and services in the areas of instruction, career and technical education, special education, early childhood education, technology, and business.

The Van Buren Intermediate School District operates the following facilities but offers many programs and services throughout the county:

1. Behavioral Education Center
2. Bert Goens Learning Center
3. Community-based Transition Center
4. John H. Dominguez, Jr. Service Center
5. Transportation Facility
6. Van Buren Conference Center
7. Van Buren Technology Center

Total Budget: \$50,077,415

Pupil FTEs (Full-Time Equivalents): Total students served in the District: 15,743

Constituent Districts, PSAs, Nonpublic Schools

Most of the students within the Van Buren Intermediate School District service area attend 12 constituent public school districts. In addition, there are six non-public schools and one online school.

Public Schools

[Bangor Public Schools](#)
[Bangor Township No. 8 - Wood School](#)
[Bloomington Public Schools](#)
[Covert Public Schools](#)
[Decatur Public Schools](#)
[Gobles Public Schools](#)
[Hartford Public Schools](#)
[Lawrence Public Schools](#)
[Lawton Community Schools](#)
[Mattawan Consolidated School](#)
[Paw Paw Public Schools](#)
[South Haven Public Schools](#)

Non-Public Schools

[Gobles Junior Academy](#)
[St. Basil School](#)
[St. Mary School](#)
[St. Paul Lutheran School](#)
[Trinity Lutheran School - Bangor](#)
[Trinity Lutheran School - Paw Paw](#)

Online School

[Michigan Online School](#)

Click here to learn more about Van Buren Intermediate School District and the services offered www.vbisd.org

ISD Employees

The total below includes, but is not limited to:

- Teachers, instructional assistants, and office staff for the Van Buren Technology Center;

- Bert Goens Learning Center teachers, instructional assistants, medical staff, therapists, and other specialists who serve students who have severe physical, cognitive, and multiple impairments;
- Behavioral Education Center teachers, instructional assistants, therapists and other specialists who serve students who have emotional impairments;
- Community-based Transition Center teachers, instructional assistants, therapists and other specialists who serve students who have mildly cognitively impairments and/or moderately cognitively impairments;
- Migrant/Bilingual teachers who work directly with local school districts' personnel and curriculum;
- Teachers, instructional assistants, and office staff for the Summer Migrant Program;
- Family Educators who serve children, birth to school entry, and their families;
- Great Start Readiness teachers, associate teachers, early childhood specialists who work with State funded preschool programs for four year olds;
- Nutrition Education Coordinators who serve K-12 students and eligible adults along with their families to make healthier life style choices;
- Substitute personnel for the Van Buren Intermediate School District;
- Instructional, career and technical education, special education, technology, and business staff who provide leadership, programs, and services for area schools throughout Van Buren County;
- Transportation staff members providing all special education transportation services for all school districts in our service area. Over 100 vehicles are maintained by our Transportation Department.

Total Employees: 858

2. *Travel Information*

The Van Buren Intermediate School District's mission to provide leadership, programs and services, requires staff to seek out best practices, gain state and national educational perspectives, gather knowledge and skill levels that reflect the latest trends, innovations, and challenges. The Van Buren Intermediate School District staff members train and guide local experts - teachers, principals, and other school staff who interact with over 15,743 students who attend our public and non-public school districts. This type of work requires more travel to conferences and trainings than a typical K-12 school district. Most leadership and consultant positions at the Van Buren Intermediate School District require travel, both within the area and throughout the state. Accountability is ensured by requiring the school board, or its designee, to review and approve all overnight and/or out-of-state travel.

The Van Buren Intermediate School District did not have any board member or administrator participate in work related travel that exceeded \$4,001.

3. *Contract Information*

The Van Buren Intermediate School District occasionally enters into contracts with vendors to perform specific services that would not be cost effective or reasonable for the District to provide on its own and must follow State requirements for seeking competitive bids on some purchases.

Guidelines for Competitive Bids:

Each year the State of Michigan's Department of Education defines what expenditures for remodeling and procurement of supplies, materials, and equipment must be competitively bid by school districts. Sections 623a, 1267, and 1274 of the Revised School Code establish a base above which competitive bids must be obtained and provide for an increase in the base that corresponds with increases in the Consumer Price Index. For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, all expenditures covered by Sections 623a, 1267 and 1274 that exceeded \$24,459 were required to be competitively bid.

How Competitive Bids Work:

During the fiscal year 2018-2019, the Van Buren Intermediate School District entered into contracts as defined by Section 620(1)(c), 620(3), 620(5), and 620(10)(a)(b) of the Revised School Code. The contracts are listed below:

Subject Matter	Cost	Competitive Bid	Who Signed	Position
Staffing Services for Substitutes, Recruitment, and Truancy	\$343,630	Yes	Jeffrey Mills	Superintendent
School Based Behavior Analytic Services	\$172,346	No	David Manson	Assistant Superintendent
Use of Staff and Lease of Classroom Space	\$62,639	No	David Manson	Assistant Superintendent
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	\$45,926	No	David Manson	Assistant Superintendent
Sign Language Interpreters	\$44,395	No	David Manson	Assistant Superintendent
Speech/Language Therapy Services	\$38,947	No	Jeffrey Mills	Superintendent
Snow Removal Year 1 of 3-year pay per incident contract)	\$36,163	No	Barbara Matthews	Director of Finance & Operations
Lease of Classroom Space	\$35,000	No	David Manson	Assistant Superintendent
Preventative Maintenance (VB Tech)	\$34,608	No	Randy Olds	Maintenance Supervisor
School Districts Analytic Software Licenses	\$32,034	No	Jeffrey Mills	Superintendent
Audit Services	\$31,050	No	Barbara Matthews	Director of Finance & Operations
Special Education Program Review	\$30,000	No	David Manson Jeffrey Mills	Assistant Superintendent Superintendent
Preventative Maintenance (Special Education Buildings)	\$28,632	No	Randy Olds	Maintenance Supervisor
Lease of Classroom Space	\$27,500	No	David Manson	Assistant Superintendent

4. Contract Modification Information

The Van Buren Intermediate School District did not have any contract modifications for the 2018-2019 school year.

5. Salary Information

All employees of the Van Buren Intermediate School District are categorized by classification of position held. All classifications are established according to demands of the position, level of responsibility, job functions performed, credentials and skills required, etc. Each classification falls into at least one established salary schedule, which takes into account such factors as seniority in position or in similar positions, comparison to similar jobs elsewhere in the community, cost of living factors, etc. Those employed by the Van Buren Intermediate School District who have compensation packages, including reimbursed expenses, whose total annual monetary value is in the top 3% of the organization are listed below. The majority of these employees make up the District's leadership team. They are responsible for

the operation of an approximate \$58 million organization which operates six facilities, and employs 858 staff members.

Employee	Salary	Expense Account	Reimbursed Expenses	Supplemental Compensation
Superintendent	\$141,050.00	\$22,200.00	0.00	\$42,785.79
Assistant Superintendent	\$119,428.00	0.00	0.00	\$19,317.61
Director of Finance & Operations	\$119,460.00	0.00	0.00	\$13,215.00
Director of Career & Technical Education	\$106,694.61	0.00	0.00	\$11,300.00
Principal - Behavioral Education Center	\$109,245.00	0.00	0.00	\$3,970.00
Administrator for Technology Services	\$99,175.00	0.00	0.00	\$4,600.00
Business Development Coordinator	\$102,269.00	0.00	0.00	\$817.50
Administrator for School Year Migrant/ESL/NCLB/School Improvement	\$87,050.00	0.00	0.00	\$15,996.75
Administrator for International Partnerships & Summer Migrant Education Programs	\$93,402.00	0.00	0.00	\$9,216.45
Coordinator of Planning, Monitoring and Data Collection	\$93,734.00	0.00	0.00	\$2,100.00
Principal - Community-based Transition Center	\$89,207.00	0.00	0.00	\$2,100.00
HIL Project Facilitator/MTSS Coordinator	\$90,988.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chief Safety and Compliance Officer	\$86,912.00	0.00	0.00	\$2,700
Administrator for Student Services	\$88,977.00	0.00	0.00	\$600.00
Principal - Bert Goens Learning Center	\$88,959.00	0.00	0.00	\$600.00
Administrator for Early Care and Education	\$84,861.77	0.00	0.00	\$3,430.00
Program Supervisor for Early Childhood Special Education	\$86,959.00	0.00	0.00	\$600.00
Teacher for the Severely Multiply Impaired	\$79,276.20	0.00	0.00	\$7,705.83
School Social Worker for Special Education	\$77,475.78	0.00	0.00	\$8,018.85
Teacher for the Resource Room	\$70,259.00	0.00	0.00	\$13,147.51

6. *Fiber Optic or Cable Equipment and Operating System Software for Fiber Optic or Cable Equipment Networks:*

The Van Buren Intermediate School District had no Fiber Optic or Cable Equipment and Operating System Software for Fiber Optic or Cable Equipment Network costs for the 2018-2019 school year.

7. *Public Relations, Polling, Lobbying, and Legal Expenses*

The 56 intermediate school districts (ISDs) or regional educational service agencies (RESAs) were created by the legislature in 1962 to bring about quality and equitable educational opportunities to students and schools throughout the state. Because public education is funded and regulated by the state and federal government, it is necessary for ISDs to use some resources to fund activities that promote public accountability, research, and government communications. Because the Van Buren Intermediate School District is publicly funded, it is responsible for communicating its programs and services to the schools and community. The guiding principle for all activities of this nature is to advocate for the children we serve.

Vendor	Services	Amount
Van Buren County (property tax dispute)	Legal Services	\$ 156,731
Thrun Law Firm	Legal Services	\$ 46,368
Karoub Associates	Lobbying	\$ 11,500

8. IRS Tax Form 1099's in Excess of \$25,000

Cost savings can often be realized by contracting with individuals for limited, specialized projects. For the calendar year 2018, the following projects and services were accomplished under contracts that exceeded \$25,000:

Name	Services	Amount	Projects
EDUStaff	Staffing Services for Recruitment, Crisis Management, and Truancy	\$345,489	VBISD
Professional Speech Services	Speech/Language Therapy Services	\$76,908	Special Education
Vogt's Snow Removal	Snow Removal	\$45,571	VBISD
Theresa McNamara	Migrant Education Data System COE Approver	\$35,025	Migrant Education
Pamela Forton-Rodriguez	Migrant Education Data System COE Approver	\$30,725	Migrant Education

9. Certain ISD Expenditures

Administration

Every organization requires leadership. The Van Buren Intermediate School District and other ISDs within the State of Michigan have been charged by the Governor and the State of Michigan Department of Education to communicate, train, support, and lead educational initiatives defined by the state and federal government. ISDs are required by law to meet the individual and specialized needs of students within our region including the areas of Title I, Special Education, and Career and Technical Education.

In 2018-2019, the Van Buren Intermediate School District spent \$ 1,031,214 on administration costs and \$ 139,248 on public relations, surveys, polling, lobbying, and legal fees. These amounts respectively represent 1.97% and 0.266% of the total budget. Legal fees of \$ 126,773 have also been reported under 7. Public Relations, Polling, Lobbying, and Legal Services.

10. Motor Vehicles

The Van Buren Intermediate School District owned or leased the motor vehicles listed below for the 2018-2019 school year:

MOTOR VEHICLES	PURPOSE
2018 Ford Transit Connect	Used for interoffice mail delivery to ISD buildings
2017 Dodge Caravan (3)	Pool car for student transportation
2017 Ford F250 Truck	Used by maintenance staff - snow plowing and various maintenance/custodial jobs
2016 Dodge Caravan (3)	Pool car for student transportation
2015 Dodge Caravan (3)	Pool car for student transportation
2012 Dodge Caravan (3)	Pool car for student transportation
2012 Chevy Impala	Used for instructional training purposes in Law Enforcement program area at Technology Center
2011 Dodge Charger	Used for instructional training purposes in Law Enforcement program area at Technology Center
2009 Dodge Caravan	Pool car for student transportation
2008 Dodge Ram Truck	Used by transportation department
2008 Chevy Cargo Van	Used for hauling construction materials to and from building sites for Construction Trades Program

2008 Chevy Impala (2)	Pool cars for student transportation
2003-2007 Chevy Suburban SUV (4)	Pool cars for transportation of special education students to school and community based sites
2000 Chevy Express Van ½ Ton	Transportation of student lunches to Bert Goens Learning Center from Technology Center
1999 Crown Victoria	Used for instructional training purposes in Law Enforcement program area at Technology Center
1988 GMC Forward Control Chassis Truck	Used as a mobile command post containing supplies for school emergencies