

A System of Student Support

Whereas, in its' "By-Laws" the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education (MAASE) has made clear its intent to create a learning environment in which all students succeed;

Whereas, new governance structures, higher standards for student performance, new instructional strategies, and a focus on results are specified as essential elements in attaining student achievement;

Whereas, a high proportion of students are unable to fully benefit from such reforms because of learning barriers related to community violence, domestic problems, racial tension, poor health, substance abuse, and urban poverty;

Whereas, teachers find it especially difficult to make progress with the high proportion of students for whom barriers to learning have resulted in mild-to-moderate learning and behavior problems;

Whereas, many of these students are referred to and often are placed in special education;

Whereas, both the Michigan Public Education System and various state and local level agencies devote resources to addressing learning barriers and initial processes have been implemented to reform and restructure use of their respective resources (e.g. LICC's) - including exploring strategies to weave public schools and community efforts together -- in ways that can overcome key barriers to student achievement and;

Whereas, a comprehensive, integrated partnership between all District support resources and community resources will provide a **System of Student Support** necessary to effectively break down the barriers to student achievement; now, therefore, be it Resolved, that:

1. All public schools in Michigan should develop a system-wide effort to address barriers to student learning and enhance healthy development as described in the document entitled "A System of Student Support for Michigan Schools;" that it be fully integrated with strategies to improve the instructional and management/governance efforts and be pursued as a primary and essential component of a District's education reforms in classrooms, schools, Local Education Agency (LEA) (central office), and at the Board of Education level.
2. In keeping with the Michigan Department of Education's "Vision and Principles of Universal Education," MAASE adopts the term of **System of Student Support** to encompass strategies related to its efforts for addressing barriers to student learning and enhancing healthy development.
3. To counter fragmentation stemming from the way programs and services are organized and administered, MAASE encourages State, Intermediate and Local Education Agencies to review their administrative organizations so that all programs and activities related to a **System of Student Support**, including Special Education, are accountable to the leadership of one administrator.
4. All stakeholders responsible for professional development activities throughout the State incorporate a substantial focus on a **System of Student Support** into all such PD activity.

Resolution Approved
MAASE Executive Board
February 13, 2006