



## Ionia County Intermediate School District

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### District Annual Education Report (AER) Cover Letter

August 15, 2011

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Ionia County Intermediate School District (ICISD) is pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2010-2011 educational progress for the ISD and our one school: Freedom Acres. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and some requirements of state laws; however, our staff is available to help you understand this information. Please Mr. Scott Hubble, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education for help if you need assistance. To view data that is available for ICISD and Freedom Acres, please click on [www.mischooldata.org](http://www.mischooldata.org)

#### **Specialized School: Freedom Acres School**

Ionia County Intermediate School District (ICISD), operates Freedom Acres, a specialized school that educates and supports students with disabilities. We maintain a variety of classrooms that help our students fulfill their abilities and potential.

#### **Severely Cognitively Impaired Classrooms (SCI)**

There are four SCI classrooms housed at Freedom Acres School and one housed at Rather Elementary School in Ionia. These classrooms serve students ages 2-26 years with a wide range of cognitive and physical impairments. Classroom programs are designed to improve gross and fine motor skills, self-care skills, communication and social skills. Almost all activities require assistance from staff, which is comprised of one teacher and several paraeducators. Additionally, therapists service students in the specific areas of speech (communication – both verbal and non-verbal), physical therapy (gross motor and range of motion activities), and occupational therapy (fine motor and sensory activities). A primary goal of all classrooms is to help each student achieve his/her own level of independence. The classroom atmosphere is both fun and nurturing for these students with special needs.

### **Moderately Cognitively Impaired Classrooms (MoCI)**

Freedom Acres operates four programs for this population. All programs are located outside of Freedom Acres School. The Primary MoCI classroom located at Emerson Elementary serves students from 6-13 years of age. Emphasis is placed on basic academics and readiness activities. Self-care skills, pre-vocational skills, and social awareness skills are also a part of the program.

The middle school MoCI classroom works on basic academics such as sight reading, telling time, counting, and personal information to name a few. Personal hygiene is a self-care skill that is an important part of this program as well. Finally, instruction is also given in the area of pre-vocational skills, social and leisure skills including community awareness.

The high school MoCI classroom focuses on preparing students for life after school. The curriculum is functionally based, dealing with social, academics, health, community-based instruction, vocational and pre-vocational skills.

Students in the above classrooms are integrated into regular non-academic classes in each school as determined by their individual plan. All programs have a teacher and several paraeducators who provide instruction, along with ISD therapists who service students for specific needs.

The Adult MoCI program is located at 201 E. Main Street and is often referred to as the "House" program. The Independent Living Center (ILC) program focuses on independence in home living skills (cooking, cleaning, shopping), community involvement and independence, and vocational programming. For more details, please click on the picture.

### **Harwood Program for the Severely Emotionally Impaired (SEI)**

There are two classrooms located at Freedom Acres School for students with emotional impairments. They accommodate students from elementary to high school age. Focus is on guiding students toward improving their problem solving skills and self-esteem, as well as promoting positive behaviors. To this end, a positive behavior management program is used with the students in addition to a time out / quiet room. Academics are an important part of both classrooms. Two teachers and several paraeducators staff this program.

## **AYP Status**

Our programs through Freedom Acres serve the specific needs of individual students for whom individualized education plans are developed. These plans are monitored carefully and progress for students toward their goals is measured consistently through the school year. While our students do participate in the state assessments, their individual plans call for other types of assessments that more closely align with their goals. Students are expected to make one year of growth for each year they are in our programs. Further, ICISD operates as a **Shared Educational Entity (SEE)**. A SEE is defined as a program to deliver a particular educational service to students coming from a group of two or more LEAs that have a business relationship for that purpose. As such, state assessment scores from MI-ACCESS, MEAP, and MME are not calculated for AYP for Freedom Acres but are attributed back to the local district from which the student comes.

## **Summary**

We applaud the good work our staff does for our students and their families. We are proud that we continue to strive for excellence in all we do as we serve our community. If you have questions about our programs and our schools, please contact us for further information.

Respectfully,

Robert Kjolhede, Superintendent