Annual Report 2018-19

Serving the districts of Allegan, Fennville, Glenn, Hopkins, Martin, Otsego, Plainwell, Wayland, Innocademy and Outlook Academy

**Vision Statement**
Your partner in transforming lives through education, leadership and service.

**Mission Statement**
Our mission is to extend educational opportunities to all learners by complementing and enhancing the efforts of our local districts and communities.

Education Goal: Increase learning outcomes for all by providing and supporting effective relevant programming.

Leadership Goal: Intentionally lead, using evidence based practices for continuous improvement.

Service Goal: Serve the needs of our community through quality resources, collaboration and compassion.
Superintendent’s Message

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Allegan Area Educational Service Agency I would like to present our Annual Report for the 2018-2019 school year. In this report, you will find important information about the numerous high-quality programs and services that AAESA provides to our community. I am honored to give this report about agency goals and our progress toward goal achievement. Through continuous improvement, the Allegan Area ESA continually prepares students to be career and/or college ready, not only today, but also for future careers. None of this work would be possible without you and your continued support.

Your feedback and involvement are important to us. Please feel free to contact me at william.brown@alleganaesa.org if I may be of assistance. Together, we can prepare our Allegan County students to face the future. We are “Your partner in transforming lives through education, leadership and service.”

Yours in Education,
William D. Brown
Superintendent
School Description: The Allegan County Area Technical and Education Center, also known as the Allegan Tech Center, is a career and technical training center, providing hands-on training for local high school juniors and seniors. The school also provides evening short-term training courses for adults throughout the year.

School Goals: The Allegan Tech Center goals are to increase the technical, academic, and employability skills of the students so they can be successful in both the workplace and post-secondary training.

Pupil Assignment Process: Local districts are assigned slots in each Allegan Tech Center program based on the school size. A number of slots are also available to be opened in the late spring for any district to use.

Core Curriculum Implementation: Individual course syllabi are posted on the AAESA website and copies of the curriculum for each course are available by request.

Additional Information: Many of the courses at the Allegan Tech Center offer direct college credit, free to the student. All courses offer articulated college credit at many community colleges and technical schools. Allegan Tech Center students earned over $150,000 in scholarships in the 2018-19 school year.
Program Description: Early College Allegan County (ECAC) is an early middle college program that accepts qualified students from the local districts served by the Allegan Area ESA and through a partnership between the agency and Lake Michigan College.

Program Goals: Early College Allegan County is an opportunity for motivated students to extend high school by one year in order to earn up to 62 college credits. Students complete both high school and college coursework, on the way to attaining an Associate’s degree or a technical certification.

Pupil Assignment Process: Applicants must have: A 2.2 Grade Point Average (GPA) or above, be on track with the Michigan Merit Curriculum to finish required coursework by the end of Junior year, passing scores for the Accuplacer showing College Readiness, complete Lake Michigan College Application, complete the ECAC Application, and must attend a College Readiness Course in the summer.

Additional Information: Thirty two students successfully completed their plan of study at ECAC as part of the second cohort. Of those, 21 enrolled in a university, four enrolled in community college, seven entered the workforce, and one entered the military. In total, the students secured $99,000 worth of scholarships.
Program Description: STAR Family Literacy Program, where STAR stands for Succeeding Together Achieving Results. STAR is a free family literacy program serving Allegan County parents who desire their high school diploma, and are pregnant or teen parents.

Program Goals: The goals of STAR are to increase high school graduation/GED completion, increase enrollment in post-secondary education, vocational training, and/or employment at a livable wage, and increase self-reliance and transition to independent living.

Pupil Assignment Process: Local districts served by the Allegan Area ESA may refer students or parents/students may contact staff directly to begin the enrollment process.

Core Curriculum Implementation: The graduation requirements include a minimum of 18 credits earned in Michigan Merit Curriculum related courses.

Additional Information: The students are in a blended learning program where high school track students attend Monday through Thursday and GED students (and those before and after maternity leave) work on-line and at the school with an individualized plan to complete courses.

School Description: Hillside is composed of three programs, Hillside Learning Center, Hillside Behavior Center, and the Young Adult Campus.

Hillside Learning Center provides programs to educate students with significant physical and/or cognitive impairments. Classroom teachers, along with other education professionals, join together to plan and provide a free and appropriate public education for each student.

Hillside Behavior Center provides programs to assist students who exhibit pervasive and persistent behaviors. These programs help the students better understand their behaviors, make more positive choices and return to their local district successfully.

The Young Adult Campus emphasizes community based instruction with a focus on vocational skills and functional academics. This program is designed to strengthen the student’s ability to safely navigate their communities and to fully participate in family activities. The goal is to connect students and families with adult service agencies to facilitate meaningful transition to the adult community.

Pupil Assignment Process: When a school district determines that the needs of a student with a significant impairment have not been met in their local school district, a Needs Review process is initiated to develop the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The IEP team considers the needs of the student as well as the programs and services necessary to meet the student’s needs.

Core Curriculum Implementation: The instruction at Hillside Learning Center is based on Michigan Department of Education’s essential elements and is consistent with the student’s IEP. At Hillside Behavior Center instruction is based on academic standards or a personal curriculum that is consistent with the student’s IEP.


Transition services are a coordinated set of activities that promote movement from school into adult life. Participation in Transition planning increases post-school outcomes for students. This process involves bringing together schools, students, families, and community agencies in a joint effort to plan the student’s most appropriate path to adult life.
Early Childhood Education

Great Start Readiness Program

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) offers preparation of young learners for success in school through a variety of social and learning activities. GSRP is a free program for families that qualify based on low family income, diagnosed disability or developmental delay, severe or challenging behavior, primary home language other than English, parent(s) with low educational attainment, abuse/neglect of child, and environmental risk.

AAESA operated 13 classrooms located in the local school districts. Four additional classrooms being a GSRP/Head Start blend, operated as a partnership with Community Action Allegan County. In total 280 children were served, 216 through GSRP and 64 through the GSRP/Head Start split.

Help Me Grow Allegan

During this school year the Allegan County Great Start Collaborative began a transition to Help Me Grow Allegan. Help Me Grow Allegan works to connect families who are expecting or who have children birth through age five to local resources. The program is an early childhood initiative designed to help children stay developmentally on track and healthy prior to school entry.

Some of the resources available to families include information on local child care, free and low-cost preschool and kindergarten options, and linking families to local playgroups.

Early On

Early On is a statewide, comprehensive, coordinated interagency system of early intervention services for infants and toddlers birth to age three with disabilities or delays and their families.

Early On Referral
General Education

Highlights for the Allegan Area Teaching and Learning Priorities for 2017-2020:

All students will be on track to read at grade level or beyond by 3rd grade.

Strategies to address this priority included use of the County-Wide Literacy Coaches Network, High Impact Leadership Project - United States Department of Education grant and the Reading Now Network Annual Symposium.

All students will have the math and science skills and knowledge to be career and college ready.

Strategies to address this priority included professional learning and coaching in essential math practices, curriculum alignment, science and literacy grants, robotics and coding events, and the Allegan Area STEM Partnership.

All students will have social and emotional skills and positive behavior that contributes to personal and academic success.

To address this priority Allegan Area ESA applied for and received funding for PBIS and mental health services. Allegan Area ESA also offered whole child mini-grants to support efforts in local districts.

Administrative

Services provided by the Finance and Operations department include: budgeting, negotiations, new employee orientation, pupil membership accounting & auditing, school safety, financial & statistical information, financial audit, tax collection information/tax levy, federal grant administration, state forms/electronic reporting, and purchasing.

Allegan Area ESA also provides special education transportation for the local school districts with over 510,000 miles driven in 2018-19.