

# ***News from the Genesee County Superintendents Association***

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For Immediate Release  
March 14, 2005

#1028

## **GENESEE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS RESPOND TO ACCOUNTABILITY STUDY - “We Are Listening”**

Genesee County residents want a stronger curriculum, a way to address teacher apathy, more parental involvement, more discipline, character development and greater emphasis on career/job training from their schools.

These priorities were identified through an accountability study to learn how local schools can do a better job of meeting the needs of the communities they serve. The study was conducted by Ed Sarpolus of EPIC-MRA, a statewide research firm. The project was commissioned by the Genesee Intermediate School District at the request of the 21 local public school districts it serves.

In dealing with curriculum, superintendents agree with the high priority placed on what is taught in classrooms in our county. Superintendents are committed to guaranteeing that all students master not only the basics, but a rigorous and relevant curriculum. Data collection systems, teacher training, use of technology to support curriculum and a common curriculum for all Genesee County schools will be targeted strategies to address this issue.

Teacher apathy has been identified by the community as a problem. Superintendents are committed to share the results of the accountability study with respective school staff members and work with union leadership to address the issue. Further study will be initiated to understand and address this concern raised by our community.

The superintendents of Genesee County believe that parent involvement in schools is essential. Superintendents acknowledge that the schools belong to the parents and community. In order to increase parent involvement, both communication and contact with parents must be targeted. Strategies for increasing parent communication, interaction, feedback and involvement will be developed.

Student discipline is a concern shared by everyone in our society. Whether you are a student, parent, school employee or community member, a safe secure learning environment is a top priority. Superintendents are dedicated to strengthening discipline

and ensuring proper character development in order that students may learn more effectively. Superintendents also believe that truancy is a component of the overall discipline issue.

Career development/job training has been identified by our community as an important area for attention by Genesee County schools. The superintendents and staff members at all levels will work cooperatively with the community, including higher education, to improve career development programs and job opportunities for our students. As a first step in preparing students for the future, the electronic Educational Development Plan (EDP) will be continued and expanded. The EDP is used by all high school students in Genesee County to develop a career/job pathway. The future of our economy rests on the preparation of students in our schools. Superintendents recognize that a student's career/job pathway begins in our schools and will lead to every student's ability to participate in the new economy.

Genesee County school districts are listening to the public, and we are committed to holding ourselves accountable for responding to these concerns. The accountability study information will lead to future positive changes in our schools. More details will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

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