



C.O.O.R.
INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Crawford • Oscoda • Ogemaw • Roscommon

Purpose Statement: C.O.O.R. ISD’s purpose is to be a leader in the coordination and/or delivery of quality services and programs for the districts and students it serves. Through its leadership, teachers and administrators will be provided with valued, effective and meaningful support that will positively impact student achievement from birth to making them college and career ready. The C.O.O.R. ISD recognizes that in order to ensure student success, this must be a collaborative process with the districts it serves, students, parents, other educational interests, associated community agencies, and the business community.

Vision Statement: The C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District will be the collaborative model for excellence in educational services and programs promoting lifelong learning for the local school districts and the communities we serve.

Mission Statement: The C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District will plan and provide the highest level of programs and services to meet current needs and anticipate those of the future. This will be achieved in partnership with all local educational interests through communication, collaboration, and cooperation.

Institution Description

The C.O.O.R. Intermediate School District (ISD) includes the counties of Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw, and Roscommon. Our name is derived from the first letter of each county we serve. C.O.O.R. ISD is located in the north central part of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. Geographically, the C.O.O.R. ISD is the second largest ISD in Michigan based on square miles. Within this area, C.O.O.R. serves six local public school districts; Crawford-AuSable Schools (Crawford County), Mio AuSable Schools, Fairview Area Schools (Oscoda County), West Branch-Rose City Schools (Ogemaw County); Houghton Lake Community Schools, and Roscommon Area Public Schools (Roscommon County); and two Public School Academies, the Charlton Heston Academy (Roscommon County) and the Alternative Educational Academy of Ogemaw County. C.O.O.R. also runs its own school, the C.O.O.R. Educational Center (C.E.C.) located at its main location in Roscommon County.

Crawford County covers 556 square miles, with approximately 90 percent of the county’s total land in public ownership in the form of national and state forests. The total population is approximately 14,000 with a population density of approximately 25 people per square mile. Approximately 55 percent of the county population resides in the City of Grayling (the only city in the county) and Grayling Township (one of six townships). The median income is approximately \$33,300 with a per capita income of approximately \$16,900. The racial makeup of the county is approximately 96 percent white.

Within Crawford County is the Crawford-AuSable School District (CASD). CASD serves approximately 1,622 students. Approximately 56 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced-priced lunch.

Oscoda County covers 572 square miles. The total population is approximately 8,400 with a population density of approximately 17 people per square mile. It is the fifth-least populous county in Michigan. The median income is approximately \$28,200 with a per capita income of approximately \$15,700. The racial makeup of the county is approximately 98 percent white.

Within Oscoda County are the Fairview Area Schools and the Mio-AuSable Area Schools. Fairview serves approximately 315 students with approximately 70 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch. Mio-AuSable serves approximately 519 students with approximately 63 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch.

Ogemaw County covers 575 square miles. The total population is approximately 21,200 with a population density of approximately 38 people per square mile. The median income is approximately \$34,000 with a per capita income of approximately \$19,600. The racial makeup of the county is approximately 97 percent white.

Within Ogemaw County is the West Branch-Rose City School District (WB-RC) and the Alternative Education Academy of Ogemaw County (AEAOC). WB-RC serves approximately 2,057 students with approximately 61 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch. AEAOC serves approximately 117 students with approximately 61 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch.

Roscommon County covers 580 square miles. The total population is approximately 24,000 with a population density of approximately 47 people per square mile. The median income is approximately \$30,000 with a per capita income of approximately \$17,800. The racial makeup of the county is approximately 98 percent white.

Within Roscommon County are the Houghton Lake Community Schools (HLCS), the Roscommon Area Public Schools (RAPS), the C.O.O.R. Educational Center (C.E.C.), and the Charlton Heston Academy (CHA). HLCS serves approximately 1,280 students with approximately 75 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch. RAPS serves approximately 1,027 students with approximately 53 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch. C.E.C. serves approximately 80 students with approximately 72 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch. CHA serves approximately 600 students with approximately 76 percent of the students qualifying for free and reduced-priced lunch.

As a demographic summary, the C.O.O.R. ISD encompasses primarily four counties yet touches into an additional five counties when considering the forty-nine taxing entities, with an area spanning approximately 2,400 square miles. Within this area there are six public schools and two public academies serving approximately 7,500 students, whom are predominantly white at approximately 98 percent, with an average of 63 percent receiving free and reduced-priced lunch due to median incomes at approximately \$30,000 and per capita income at approximate \$16,500.

The C.O.O.R. ISD provides Special Education, Career and Technical Education, Information Technology, Early Childhood Education, and General Education programs and services. The services that the ISD provides allow local school districts regardless of size to have access to quality personnel, services and programs that they could not afford individually. This provides for better use of state and local money by enhancing efficiency to the use of human resources and avoiding duplication of resources.

Although a sharing of services and programs exists, it comes at a cost to our local districts. The C.O.O.R. ISD has the second lowest total tax levy and the lowest special education tax levy in the state. In this model, our local districts are billed back for their proportionate share of the special education costs for special education services we provide. Due to an average decline in enrollment of 2% per year for more than a decade, the special education millage being the lowest in the state, and reduced revenues due to declining enrollment in general, but still experiencing a consistent cost of special education, the ISD has been experiencing conflict with some of our local districts. One result of this conflict has been the introduction of legislation to modify the revised school code in the area of ISD disorganization. Essentially, the goal would be for a local to be reassigned to another contiguous ISD with a higher tax levy. In the event this would occur, local districts would be assigned to another contiguous ISD and have the millage rate(s) of the receiving ISD imposed on the local communities. We continue to discuss other options to disorganization, including proposing another millage campaign to meet the interests of the students we serve in local communities.

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