

MONTCALM AREA INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Our Vision: MAISD will be an educational partner in building strong communities. Our Mission: In partnership with its communities, MAISD provides innovative & effective learning opportunities for students, schools and families.

For Immediate Release June 27, 2025 Contact: Penny Dora, MAISD Director of Communications pdora@maisd.com or 616-225-6136

Montcalm Area ISD Reaches Agreement with the United States Department of Justice

At the Montcalm Area ISD, it is our mission to provide a safe, welcoming, and nurturing learning environment that helps prepare our students for a future of success. Montcalm Area ISD is committed to transparency and keeping our entire school community informed.

The Montcalm Area ISD Board of Education has signed an agreement with the United States Department of Justice after its review of seclusion and restraint practices used in our special education classrooms. These practices were utilized by the previous ISD leadership and were brought to light in 2020. Prior to approval of the agreement, new leadership at Montcalm Area ISD had already taken several proactive steps to address concerns from the Department of Justice including:

- ✓ Ending use of seclusion practices to address student behavior concerns.
- ✓ Ending use of school rooms or other facilities for seclusion purposes.
- ✓ Hiring of an intervention coordinator who will be a liaison between the building principal and the superintendent's office.

Montcalm Area ISD is fully complying with all U.S. Department of Justice guidelines related to seclusion and restraint practices in our classrooms. These practices are intended to de-escalate disruptive and potentially dangerous student behavior and protect the safety and security of our students and staff. This agreement details the next steps in addressing the practice of seclusion and restraint in our school. We take this matter seriously and are fully committed to ensuring the continued safety and security of our staff and the students and families we serve.

Upon its receipt, a formal copy of the summary and agreement with the Department will be posted on the Montcalm Area ISD website at <u>www.maisd.com</u>.

As always, we remain committed to providing specially designed instruction that helps our students learn, grow and thrive. We look forward to continuing to serve our students and families.

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Montcalm Area ISD: Serving our School Partners

Carson City-Crystal + Central Montcalm + Greenville + Lakeview + Montabella + Tri County + Vestaburg + Flat River Academy + Success Virtual Learning Centers

It is the policy of Montcalm Area Intermediate School District that no person shall be subjected to discrimination in any educational program, service, or activity that it provides, nor in any employment for which it is responsible. As such, MAISD and its Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender (including orientation or transgender identity), disability, age, religion, height, weight, marital or family status, military status, ancestry, genetic information, or any other legally protected classes. Inquiries related to discrimination should be directed to the MAISD Superintendent.