

BRANCH INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT**PRELIMINARY POSTING**

The Board of Education for the Branch Intermediate School District is in search of a new superintendent to replace Kris Jenkins who is retiring after seven years of exemplary service to the organization. This is an outstanding opportunity for the right candidate to make an impactful difference while working for a top-quality, educational organization. This is only the preliminary posting; a detailed profile of the ideal candidate will be added later. We encourage interested applicants to refrain from applying until the profile is posted. (March 20)

Please read the letter from Superintendent Jenkins to potential applicants which can be found at the end of this posting.

The Branch Intermediate School District office is in Coldwater, Michigan which is situated about 15 minutes north of the Indiana state line. Coldwater is located along I-69, approximately 2 hours west of Detroit and 2.5 hours east of Chicago. The area is largely rural/agricultural with a solid business and industrial presence. Additional information on the area can be found at the Chamber of Commerce website at <https://www.coldwaterchamber.com/>.

The Branch Intermediate School District serves the school districts of Coldwater Community Schools, Quincy Community Schools, Bronson Community Schools, and Pansophia Academy. In all, more than 5,000 students in local districts are served. The ISD operates the Branch Area Career Center, the Waldron Learning Center (a facility for students with moderate to severe impairments), the Dorothy Legg Learning Center, and the Pathways to Independence Program (young adults). In addition, the Branch Intermediate School District offers Adult Education classes and Early Education programs in locations across Branch County. The district maintains strong partnerships with the neighboring ISDs of Calhoun and Barry counties, the Kalamazoo and Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies, and Kellogg Community College.

District Website-<https://www.branch-isd.org/>

Board of Education (tenure)

Kenneth Norton, President (27 years)

Chantal Paxton, Vice President (12 years)

John Bolton, Secretary (8 years)

Brian Ely, Treasurer (2 years)

Kerri Jakubczak, Trustee (2 years)

District Data:

- Enrollment 5,596
- Teachers-94
- Administrators-34
- Paraprofessionals-127
- Clerical-9
- Support Staff/Other staff-49
- Adult education staff-17
- Operating Millage-.1689
- Special Education Millage-3.7654
- Vocational Education Millage-4.1459
- Budget
 - General Fund
 - Revenue \$9,310,224
 - Expense \$9,157,780
 - Projected Fund Balance \$2,811,577
 - Special Education
 - Revenue \$20,693,129
 - Expense \$21,496,055
 - Projected Fund Balance \$6,700,804
 - Vocational Education
 - Revenue \$9,138,122
 - Expense \$8,478,773
 - Projected Fund Balance-\$7,023,972

Salary and Contract Information

The Board will offer a comprehensive, multi-year contract. Compensation will be commensurate with experience of the successful candidate within the Board approved salary range for the 2025-2026 year. This range begins at \$161,859 (Step 1) and has a maximum salary of \$171,197 (Step 4).

Application Procedure

Interested candidates should complete and submit an online application found at <https://masb.myrevelus.com/>.

Completed online applications must be submitted no later than 4:00 pm on **April 22**. No "hard copy," fax or emailed copies accepted. If requested by the candidate, materials will be treated confidentially through the screening process. Candidate names will become public at the time an interview is scheduled.

Candidates are asked to not contact board members directly. All questions regarding the search should be directed to Mark Dobias, Consultant, Michigan Association of School Boards, at 269.532.0543 or mrdobias@gmail.com.

Search Timeline

Action	Date
Application deadline	April 22 @4pm
Selection of candidates to interview	April 28
First round interviews	May 6, 7
Second round interviews/First Opportunity for Board Selection of Superintendent	May 13
Board visitation (if necessary)	TBD
Second Opportunity for Board Selection of Superintendent	TBD
Start date	July 1



Date: February 18, 2025

Dear Potential Branch ISD Superintendent,

As I transition out of my role as Superintendent of Branch ISD, I want to take a moment to share what makes this organization truly exceptional. While I could highlight many great aspects, the very best part of Branch ISD is its people. No matter how impressive our programs, facilities, and community initiatives may be, it always comes back to the dedicated individuals who make it all possible.

I will begin with the **Board of Education** - a committed five-member team representing our three local school districts. Each member brings a wealth of understanding and experience as many have served or are currently serving on various boards. They are supportive, thoughtful, and unafraid to ask tough questions to make informed decisions. More than anything they are kind and caring individuals who truly want to serve students to the best of our abilities.

Our **Cabinet** consists of the Superintendent and four Assistant Superintendents, each an expert in their respective fields. This team is knowledgeable, well-connected, passionate, and student-focused. They bring their best to work every day, providing unwavering leadership and vision. Any Superintendent would be fortunate to work alongside such an outstanding group of professionals—I know I certainly have been.

The **Administrative Team**—a 15-member group from all divisions, including Early Education, Special Education, Career & Technical Education (CTE), Adult Education, Early Middle College, and Technology—is the backbone of our operations. These individuals are the "boots on the ground," working directly with students, staff, parents, and partners to ensure our services

run seamlessly. Their ability to develop practical solutions and drive continuous improvement is truly invaluable.

And then, we have the **staff**—the heart of this organization. Our teachers, counselors, ancillary staff, paraprofessionals, technical assistants, managers, administrative assistants, maintenance and custodial teams, and many others make up a workforce of over 360 dedicated professionals. Their passion, commitment, and relentless pursuit of excellence ensure that students receive the highest level of support and education every day. I have been consistently inspired by their dedication to their craft and their unwavering focus on student success.

Branch ISD serves three local school districts (Bronson, Coldwater, Quincy), one public school academy (Pansophia Academy), and two parochial schools (St. Charles & St. Mary's). Our partnerships with these institutions are strong and deeply valued. Beyond our schools, the broader community plays an essential role in our success. Organizations like the United Way, the Branch County Community Foundation, and the Branch County Coalition Against Sexual and

Domestic Violence—along with countless service groups—are instrumental in making Branch County a wonderful place to live and learn. Once again, it is the people behind these organizations who create powerful and meaningful partnerships that strengthen our schools.

Branch ISD is fortunate to have had fiscally responsible business managers and administrators who have ensured financial stability over the years. The district remains in a strong financial position, with healthy reserves that allow for facility improvements, staffing enhancements, service expansions, and the flexibility to navigate economic challenges when they arise. The individuals responsible for managing these resources do so with the utmost care, ensuring taxpayer dollars are used wisely in service of students and families.

It has been a true honor to be part of this organization for the past seven years. I have been incredibly fortunate to work alongside some of the best and brightest in education. As I step away, I am excited to see how the next Superintendent will build upon the strong foundation that was established long before my tenure. Branch ISD's vision—*"Nothing Less Than Success for All!"*—is more than just a statement; it is a reality brought to life by the remarkable people of this organization and community.

Wishing you success in your new role and a bright future for Branch ISD.

Sincerely,



Kris Jenkins