

See
where your
school
ranks!
mackinac.org/
CAP2013

The Michigan Context and Performance Report Card: Public Elementary and Middle Schools, 2013



THE MICHIGAN CONTEXT AND PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD: PUBLIC ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOLS, 2013

By Audrey Spalding



The Mackinac Center for Public Policy is a nonpartisan research and educational institute dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Michigan citizens by promoting sound solutions to state and local policy questions. The Mackinac Center assists policymakers, scholars, businesspeople, the media and the public by providing objective analysis of Michigan issues. The goal of all Center reports, commentaries and educational programs is to equip Michigan citizens and other decision makers to better evaluate policy options. The Mackinac Center for Public Policy is broadening the debate on issues that have for many years been dominated by the belief that government intervention should be the standard solution. Center publications and programs, in contrast, offer an integrated and comprehensive approach that considers:

All Institutions. The Center examines the important role of voluntary associations, communities, businesses and families, as well as government.

All People. Mackinac Center research recognizes the diversity of Michigan citizens and treats them as individuals with unique backgrounds, circumstances and goals.

All Disciplines. Center research incorporates the best understanding of economics, science, law, psychology, history and morality, moving beyond mechanical cost-benefit analysis.

All Times. Center research evaluates long-term consequences, not simply short-term impact.

Committed to its independence, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy neither seeks nor accepts any government funding. The Center enjoys the support of foundations, individuals and businesses that share a concern for Michigan's future and recognize the important role of sound ideas. The Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. For more information on programs and publications of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, please contact:

Mackinac Center for Public Policy 140 West Main Street P.O. Box 568 Midland, Michigan 48640
989-631-0900 Fax 989-631-0964 www.mackinac.org mcpp@mackinac.org

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy

The Michigan Context and Performance Report Card: Public Elementary and Middle Schools, 2013

By Audrey Spalding

©2013 by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy
Midland, Michigan



Guarantee of Quality Scholarship

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy is committed to delivering the highest quality and most reliable research on Michigan issues. The Center guarantees that all original factual data are true and correct and that information attributed to other sources is accurately represented.

The Center encourages rigorous critique of its research. If the accuracy of any material fact or reference to an independent source is questioned and brought to the Center's attention with supporting evidence, the Center will respond in writing. If an error exists, it will be noted in an errata sheet that will accompany all subsequent distribution of the publication, which constitutes the complete and final remedy under this guarantee.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. Clifford W. Taylor, Chairman

*Retired Chief Justice,
Michigan Supreme Court*

Joseph G. Lehman, President

Mackinac Center for Public Policy

Joseph J. Fitzsimmons

*Retired President,
University Microfilms*

Dulce M. Fuller

Owner, Woodward and Maple

Richard G. Haworth

*Chairman Emeritus,
Haworth, Inc.*

Kent B. Herrick

President and CEO, Thermogy

J.C. Huizenga

President, Westwater Group

Phil F. Jenkins

Chairman, Sweepster Inc.

R. Douglas Kinnan

*Senior Vice President and CFO,
Amerisure Insurance*

Edward C. Levy Jr.

President, Edw. C. Levy Co.

Rodney M. Lockwood Jr.

*President, Lockwood
Construction Company, Inc.*

Joseph P. Maguire

*President,
Wolverine Development
Corporation*

Richard D. McLellan

Attorney, McLellan Law Offices

D. Joseph Olson

*Retired Senior Vice President
and General Counsel,
Amerisure Companies*

BOARD OF SCHOLARS

Dr. Donald Alexander

Western Michigan University

Dr. William Allen

Michigan State University

Dr. Thomas Bertonneau

Writer and Independent Scholar

Dr. Brad Birzer

Hillsdale College

Dr. Peter Boettke

George Mason University

Dr. Theodore Bolema

Anderson Economic Group

Dr. Stephen Colarelli

Central Michigan University

Andrew Coulson

Cato Institute

Robert Crouner

Eastern Michigan University (ret.)

Dr. Richard Cutler

University of Michigan (ret.)

Dr. Jefferson Edgens

Morehead State University

Dr. David Felbeck

University of Michigan (ret.)

Dr. Burton Folsom

Hillsdale College

Dr. Wayland Gardner

Western Michigan University (ret.)

John Grether

Northwood University

Dr. Michael Heberling

Baker College

Dr. Ormand Hook

*Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate
School District*

Robert Hunter

Mackinac Center for Public Policy

Prof. Harry Hutchison

Mason School of Law

Dr. David Janda

*Institute for Preventative
Sports Medicine*

Annette Kirk

*Russell Kirk Center for
Cultural Renewal*

David Littmann

Mackinac Center for Public Policy

Dr. Dale Matcheck

Northwood University

Charles Meiser

*Lake Superior
State University (ret.)*

Glenn Moots

Northwood University

Dr. George Nastas III

Marketing Consultants

Dr. John Pafford

Northwood University

Dr. Mark Perry

University of Michigan - Flint

Lawrence W. Reed

*Foundation for
Economic Education*

Gregory Rehmke

*Economic Thinking/
E Pluribus Unum Films*

Dr. Steve Safranek

Ave Maria School of Law

Dr. Howard Schwartz

Oakland University

Dr. Martha Seger

Federal Reserve Board (ret.)

James Sheehan

Deutsche Bank Securities

Rev. Robert Sirico

*Acton Institute for the
Study of Religion and Liberty*

Dr. Bradley Smith

Capital University Law School

Dr. John Taylor

Wayne State University

Dr. Richard K. Vedder

Ohio University

Prof. Harry Veryser Jr.

University of Detroit Mercy

John Walter Jr.

Dow Corning Corporation (ret.)

Dr. William Wilson

Economic Consultant

Mike Winther

Institute for Principle Studies

Dr. Gary Wolfram

Hillsdale College



MACKINAC CENTER
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

The Mackinac Center for Public Policy is dedicated to improving the understanding of economic and political principles among citizens, public officials, policymakers and opinion leaders. The Center has emerged as one of the largest and most prolific of the more than 50 state-based free-market “think tanks” in America. Additional information about the Mackinac Center and its publications can be found at www.mackinac.org.

Additional copies of this report are available for order from the Mackinac Center.

For more information, call 989-631-0900, or see our website, www.mackinac.org.



Audrey Spalding is director of education policy at the Mackinac Center for Public Policy. Before joining the Center, Spalding worked as a policy analyst at the St. Louis-based Show-Me Institute, where she provided analytical research and legislative testimony on tax credits, land banks and education.

Prior to her time at Show-Me, Spalding was an education reporter for the Columbia Missourian, where she was a co-recipient of the 2008 Missouri Press Association's Community Service Award for her efforts to highlight school district expenditures. Spalding received her bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri, double-majoring in journalism and economics. She is a native and resident of Ann Arbor, Mich.