



FERNDALDE MIRROR

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Berkley, Ferndale schools should put check registers online

Clawson Public Schools was recognized in December by the Mackinaw Center for Public Policy for posting its checks online.

The district was one of the first in Michigan to allow the public to view where taxpayers' money is spent. It began posting all its expenditures and receipts on its Web site in May.

The Mackinaw Center, a nonpartisan research and educational institute that analyzes Michigan issues, asked every school district in Oakland County to post its checks online before school began in September as part of its ongoing "Show Michigan the Money" transparency project.

So far, a handful of districts - including Clawson and the school district of the City of Royal Oak - have complied.

Berkley school district and Ferndale Public Schools are among those that have not.

We encourage the boards in those two districts consider posting their check registers on line as well.

How school boards spend taxpayer money is public information. Posting that information online makes it easier for the public to access it and review it. In the past, school districts have made hard copies available upon request, but the process was often tedious and time-consuming.

We hope that both Berkley and Ferndale school districts join with Clawson and Royal Oak in making their spending of taxpayer dollars as transparent as possible.