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## Show Michigan the money



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### School district expense reports posted online

By [Jeni Jewell](#)

Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 6:28 p.m.

CHASSELL -- School finances are public record, and one Michigan organization is hoping to make them more accessible by encouraging schools to post them online.

The online registry is provided by the Mackinac Center's "Show Michigan the Money" transparency project, which has several districts' finances posted.

Chassell is the only U.P. school currently listed.

"We don't have any excess cash and so we're being very vigilant about every dollar spent," said school board trustee, Ken Kytta. "We've cut our transportation costs down, we've cut our food service costs down."

For food, \$5,737.75 and \$688 for a new school bus exhaust system. These two expenses on the Chassell Township School accounts payable check register for October, can now be seen by anyone online.

"We pride ourselves at Chassell, getting a lot for our money here," said Superintendent Mike Gaunt. "We're real responsive to the community needs, and the board thought it was a good way to prove it."

Administrators and school board members say they welcome comments about the expense report. They haven't had any yet, but it's only been up since November.

"We're wondering if people are going to ask, 'Why did you spend \$150 on pencils?'" said Gaunt. "But it's cool that they're asking that and we can explain and be honest about what we're doing."

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