



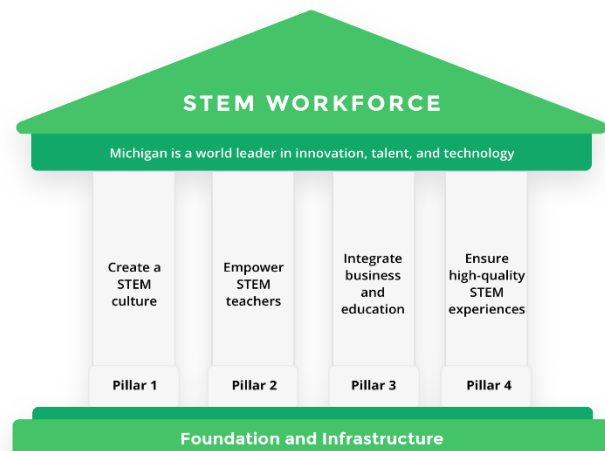
Eastern Upper Peninsula MiSTEM Region Report to Board of Education

January 2019

The EUP MiSTEM Region Strategic Plan

In the past year, the EUP STEM Region has written and submitted a Strategic Plan which will act as a guiding document for our region this year. The strategic plan has been created through the collective work of people from the EUPISD, school districts, Lake Superior State University, businesses, economic development groups, and MiSTEM Network leadership. The plan organizes the work of the Region into the four STEM pillars.

A major factor in the success of the region will be the ability to develop and utilize partnerships. We are fortunate to have a regional community that has been supportive and involved in this process along the way. Some of our partnerships have been established for quite a while, and others are relatively new. Here are some highlights around a few of the more recently developed partnerships that we have, and how those partnerships are benefiting our region



Curriculum Partners:

- Through a statewide grant initiative, we are able to partner with [Code.org](https://code.org) to provide teacher training in computer science K-12. A number of teachers in the region have already attended workshops and are implementing the Code.org curriculum in our schools. We have plans in place to offer additional teacher opportunities this summer.
- We have really developed a great working relationship with the Battle Creek Math and Science Center through working with them to implement the Next Generation Science

Standards. Through our work with Battle Creek, we have established a regional Teacher Leader Corps. This group of teachers will train to become regional grade level leaders and Cereal City Science Kit facilitators, which will increase the capacity to provide quality science instruction to EUP students.

- A recent partnership with [Alt+Shift](#) has provided the opportunity to provide the Foundations of Math Professional Learning Series at the EUPISD. Brianna Bancroft is Alt+Shift's regional Math Accessibility Specialist and lives in Ishpeming. She is providing our region with support in training and implementation. Here is an excerpt taken from the MI² Newsletter highlighting a teacher from Sault Schools who attended the workshop last fall at the ISD.

Foundations of Math: Implementation Story



Heidie Lehmkuhle

6-8 grade interventionist

Sault Ste. Marie Middle School

Heidie is a 6-8th grade math interventionist who recently went through *Foundations of Math* in the eastern upper peninsula (EUP) region. She has found it extremely helpful in working with and empowering her students. What follows is part of her implementation story. Part 2 of her story will appear in a future newsletter.

In what ways have you implemented *Foundations of Math*?

I am using many components [from the training] to better meet the needs of my students. Specifically, I use the Number Knowledge Test to collect data on where students' gaps are. Doing this has allowed me to gain insights as to where students lack understanding and to build their understanding in the areas that

they need the most support. Also, my lessons follow the concrete, representational, and abstract model. The best part is that all my students can access the curriculum because of what I am now doing in my classroom. Furthermore, they are being challenged at the level they need to be. I can now recognize that while my previous attempts to fill in students' gaps of understanding was with the best of intentions, I was missing the mark. The information provided in *Foundations of Math* is incredibly powerful because it allows me to deepen my instruction in ways that meets my students' needs. Additionally, I did not have to completely change my practices in order to implement what I learned at this training. My mentor teachers and administration have taught me that there is not a single program, method, or strategy that can replace quality instruction. They have guided me to understand that good teaching is simply that, good teaching. Foundations of Math adds to my instructional strategies, it does not replace them. What has changed is my perspective of students' learning experiences and how I can best meet their many critical needs.

What impact has *Foundations of Math* had on you and those you work with?

Foundations of Math is impacting the experiences my students are having with math. They now can access the curriculum and deeply understand mathematical concepts. Students are making connections between a variety of areas and their everyday lives, and because of that they are having positive experiences. Several of my students have had many negative experiences with math. They are several grade levels behind their peers and have developed a fixed mindset. Combining Foundations of Math with good teaching practices, and quality relationships, is paving the way to new opportunities for my students. Teaching students who have had many negative experiences with math can be difficult. Foundations of Math recognizes that education is not a 'one size fits all' program. It is a way of thinking and forming instruction that makes connections for students. It is not a prescribed formula that must be followed. It has made my instruction more authentic and genuine; and that is what my students deserve. While it can be difficult, it is worth it!

