Leave Your Child Behind (In the Woods): The Value of Placed-Based Education in Northeast Michigan

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Traditional Education Needs Help... | High Potential of Place-Based Education

- Michigan ranks nationally, Grade 4:
  - 32nd in Reading
  - 36th in Mathematics
  - 38th in Sciences
  - 49th in Mathematics, Low-Income Students

- Increased academic ownership in participants
- Higher standardized test scores in Reading
- Higher standardized test scores in Math
- Higher scores in Science classes/test
- Higher engagement and participation rates for lower-achieving students

Place-Based Education Efforts in Northeast Michigan

- Network operates across 9 counties in Northeast Michigan
- 129 community partners involved
- 4,601 Students participated in 2018 (26% of student population within 18 participating schools)
- $876,000 invested in Northeast Michigan programming from the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust over 10 years alongside independent sponsoring

Results at a Glance: Community Partners Benefit

- 88% Agree that the projects and activities have a significant impact on their organizations
- 100% Responded that it is fun hosting and supporting place-based education
- 77% Indicate the benefits to organization outweigh their costs of supporting the practice
- 72% Agree that awareness and knowledge of their organizations increased after supporting the practice

Strategies for Building Place-Based Education Partnerships

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- Personnel/Staffing
  - Curriculum Building
  - Staff Training/Professionalization

- Hosting Projects
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  - Tied Across Other Categories

- Direct Organizational Functions
- Better Education for Students
- Increased Investment in Community

SIZE of Community Partner

While Organizations supporting PBE can have as many as 500 employees, 53% of all community partners had between 1-10 employees

Promoting FUNDING

- 36.2% of respondents support the practice through direct funding. Direct funding is the second-least common type of support among Partners

- Size of organization is not a significant factor in number of employees trained for PBE employees hired for PBE employee hours spent on PBE

Special thanks to committee members: Josh Sapotichne, Erika Rosebrook, Sarah Waters, Brandon Schroeder, & Meag Schwartz