

News Alert

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Waterford School District's program top in the state

LANSING, MI – Nine school districts across Michigan are starting the school year off with a celebration of success. The Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) recently announced the recipients of the 2009 Michigan's Best Award. While schools face many challenges, the Michigan's Best award is an example of the quality education taking place in Michigan schools each day.

Waterford School District's *Math Lab* program has been selected as a recipient of the 2009 Michigan's Best Award. Waterford will accept its award Oct. 24 at an awards ceremony co-sponsored by MASB and SET SEG School Insurance Specialists, the program's exclusive sponsor.

Waterford's winning program earned the honor in the Improving Student Achievement for At-Risk Students category for its innovativeness and impact on student achievement. Teachers, administrators and school board members will be on hand to celebrate the prestigious award.

"We're being challenged at the state and local level to develop innovative approaches to education," said Kathy Hayes, MASB executive director. "These districts have a proven record of success, and should be thought of as models for other districts across the state."

Waterford School District designed the Math Lab as an intervention for at-risk learners. Math Lab replaces an elective course and helps students develop math power and success beyond their school years. Math Lab students receive intense support as they work toward understanding and mastery of critical skills, problem-solving strategies and techniques as well as their knowledge and understanding of grade-level expectations. Intense support includes rigorous opportunities and activities toward math improvement and empowerment in a small group setting with increased adult/student ratios. Math Lab has expectations that failure isn't an option while making academic success and engagement in learning a reality.

Programs are judged by an independent panel of experts in each area, based on uniqueness, the critical need served and evidence of impact on student achievement. More than 150 entries were received from districts across the upper and lower peninsulas. Each winner receives a trophy for display at the school and \$1,500 to sustain their efforts. These programs won round-two judging and represent the top honor in each of nine categories of MASB's Education Excellence program.

MASB provides quality educational leadership services to all Michigan boards of education, and advocates for student achievement and public education.

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