



ANNUAL REPORT

2011-2012

President's Message

The best part of serving the REMC Association this past year was getting to present to our membership and local districts the great accomplishments that the organization has completed in the name of, and in service to, our constituents. This report will summarize the projects and on-going applications of technology from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012.

The REMC Association is always trying to improve what we do for our member districts, and this year we held a two-day planning retreat to talk about the future. I cannot express enough how important this activity was to our members, the directors and instructional technology people, as we hammered out a very robust plan for the next few years.

This past year has been jam packed with REMC Association accomplishments. One of the more interesting accomplishments was the formal partnership of the REMC Association and MACUL, the Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning. Both organizations excel in professional development, online learning, and digital resources.



By joining forces and becoming a team we will accomplish so much more. We know our wonderful collaboration is going to produce even more great opportunities for teachers and students in the state.

The 2011-2012 school year also saw the REMC Association launch the revised *21things4Students* project. This program can be used as a technology curriculum, fulfilling the requirements of the 8th grade technology assessment.

This curriculum is being used by thousands of students in Michigan Schools.

The *Connected Educator Series*, short video demonstrations of best practices in technology by working teachers and technology leaders does just that - shows teachers on their own time some of the great things they can do in the classroom with their kids using technology.

Some of the other highlights are the second annual \$AVE showoff where directors and interested technology personnel can see, learn about, touch, all the new technology materials coming out. The REMC Association joined forces for our annual Summer Inservice with our MITS partners.

We collaborated to learn new things and think about ways to work together more.

Anytime, anyplace, any pace, just a couple of bullets from the governor's new mandate, got the REMC association and a crew of our members thinking that developing a true blended approach, where teachers learn how to teach in the blended environment effectively, would be our next focus.

As I said to my fellow directors this summer in my final speech as president of the association, I am so proud of what we do as a group for kids. Our focus is to be on the cutting edge of technology, providing resources, and how they apply for teachers and students. We work hard to provide what the schools need for better teaching and learning, while, focusing on student needs. So much of what we do impacts students, and we are happy to have that responsibility.

Rest assured, the REMC Association will continue to work well into the future, providing opportunities for students in Michigan, as well as serving their member districts in any way they need. Please read this report and feel free to contact your REMC representative to get more details on any or all of the information in this document.

Thanks,

*Tim Davis, 2011-2012 President,
REMC Association of Michigan*

Highlights 2011-2012

REMCAM Project Launches

- Revised 21things4students
- Connected Educator Video Series
- Development of Blended Learning in the Classroom online course
- Second Annual REMC \$AVE Show Off
- Joint REMCAM - MITS Blended Learning Summer Inservice
- REMCAM & MACUL Partnership Agreement focusing on professional development, online learning, digital resources
- \$AVE Bid Project pricing for assessment software
- REMCAM Planning Retreat - Celebrate, Collaborate, Create
- Six Days of Discovery professional development events

SAVE Bid Project

remcbids.org

The REMC Statewide \$AVE Bid Project provides competitively bid contracts for Michigan schools. All contracts are bid in accordance with the state School Code and approved by the Ingham ISD Board of Education, thereby allowing schools to make purchases without further bidding.

601 participated with the \$AVE Project in 2011, or a 99% participation rate. Since 1990, more than \$500 million in savings has been achieved!

Looking forward to 2012-13, the REMC \$AVE Bid Project will be launching an enhanced website. This website redesign will make it easier to navigate and provide

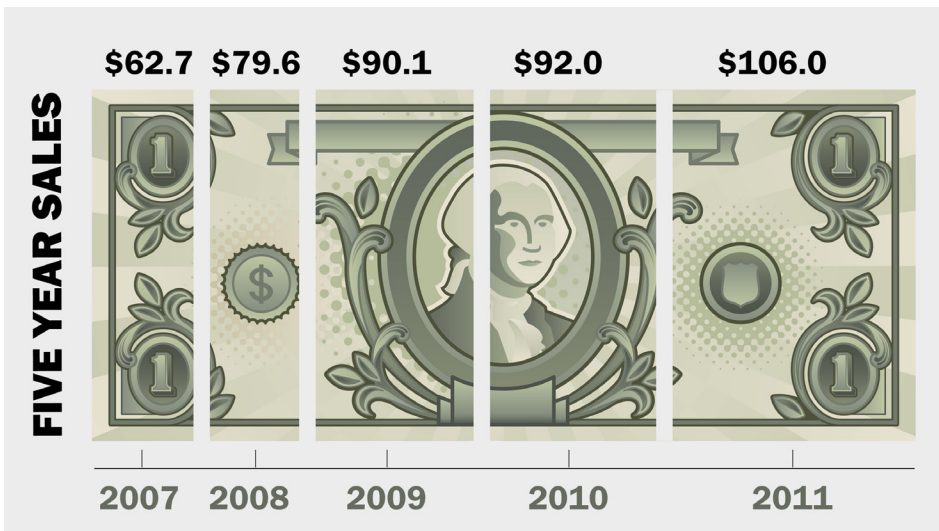
"We love using REMC bids! When time is money, I don't have time to gather quotes and evaluate every product requested."

"We trust that REMC bids has done their homework and are providing the best products and prices to Michigan schools."

*Jeff Trudell - Director of Technology
Wyandotte Public Schools*

"The REMC \$AVE Bid Project website is our first stop when preparing to make a purchase!"

*Kevin J. Galbraith Sr., STM - Executive
Director of Technology, Wayne-Westland
Community Schools*



Record sales were reported in 2011. Total sales for the year were over \$106 million providing savings of more than \$52 million. There were more than 7.4 million items sold in eight bid categories – supplies, equipment, software, paper, computer equipment, network electronics, learning management systems and video streaming. Of the 609 Michigan public school districts,

additional functionality. We will also be expanding our series of webcasts to help users navigate the Project website. A new bid for streaming video and digital content will be conducted in the spring of 2013.

The REMC Statewide \$AVE Bid Project prides itself in being responsive to its customers and providing a service that is valuable to Michigan schools.

Welcome to our New Directors



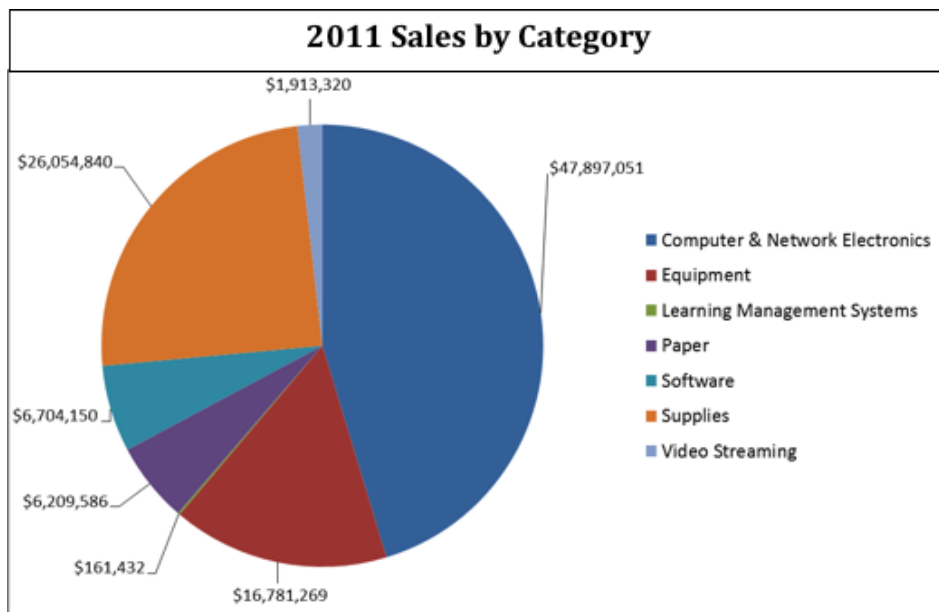
*Michael George,
REMC 2 Central*



*Andy Mann,
REMC 4*



*Brian Schubbach,
REMC 12 W*



21things4students

www.remc.org/21things4students

The 2011-2012 school year has been one of great growth in this project. Teachers using the resources were asked to complete a survey indicating they were using the resource, as well as estimating how many students they were using it with. The chart below indicates the summary as of June 5, 2012 of this data.

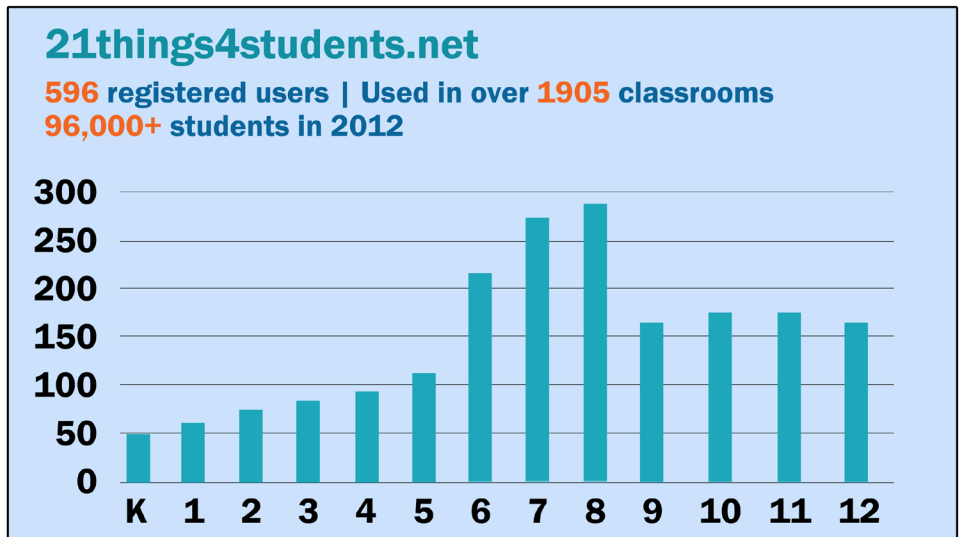
We also surveyed teachers and students for feedback and suggestions for changes. There were over 5,000 responses from students, and the primary suggestion was to make it more “game-like” with interactive resources and more media.

Over the summer of 2012, the project has been totally updated, and moved into the remc.org web hosting environment. The updated site will be made live at 21things4students.net in late August 2012. Several districts have aligned their curriculum to the current site. That site will be left available for one year at the Weebly hosting location.

There is a totally new look and feel to the site, with Missions, Quests, and Badges students can earn. All 21 projects are numbered and listed on the new site.

Videos and much of the multimedia content are now being hosted by the REMC MI Streamnet project (www.mistreamnet.org/). A Flash-friendly browser is still needed for viewing some of the content.

Assessment is being addressed through teacher rubrics for grading, quizzes for vocabulary comprehension and student projects. Also a project evaluator has been hired for the coming year and we anticipate a fantastic 2012-2013 project year.



A group of 255 students previewed the new version in the spring and made the following comments:

- I like the new one better, the skin looks better.
- I like it because it's very colorful; the pages are better and not so confusing.
- I like that the new site is more appealing to the eye, has more information and is interactive.
- It makes it easier to find the certain lesson you are looking for when it is in smaller parts.
- I love it! I listened to the audio and knew what to do.
- I think the website is awesome!

MiLearns Online Portal

www.milearnsonline.org

The Michigan Learns Online Portal is the place to find information regarding online learning. There are free online learning

work and enhance the ability of their colleagues.

3. Provide support to those participating in online learning to meet the State Online Learning Requirement.

The MiLearns Online Portal has 41 online

MiLearns Online Portal grew closer to meeting all three goals:

- Made major look and feel changes making it much easier to use,
- Increased the number of free online learning materials,
- Broadened its relationships with Michigan and other state's educational agencies, increasing the potential for improvement to the MiLearns Online Portal.

During 2011-2012 there were 14,228 visitors to the MiLearns Online Portal. Visitors primarily accessed the online learning material (blue) and gathered resources that will help them provide online learning (green and red). Visitors came from Michigan, other states and countries. The principal of the Buddy Ryan High School in Texas found the MiLearns Online Portal "meaty".

During 2012-13, working with Oregon Virtual High School, Utah Open High School and Michigan eLibrary more online learning material will be added to the MiLearns Online Portal and finding all its resources will be easier, making the MiLearns Online Portal a very useful REMC project supporting online learning in Michigan.

2011-2012 Website Visitors: 14,228



lessons, a place to share your online learning content and courses for educators to use. The MiLearns Online Portal has three primary goals:

1. Provide a tool to support quality online teaching and learning,
2. Empower teachers to share their

learning lessons, units and courses for grades 4 through 12 that address science, English language arts, science, and media and technology literacy. There are also resources supporting online learning policy development and professional learning.

During the 2011-12 school year the

Connected Educator Series

[www.remc.org/
connectededucator](http://www.remc.org/connectededucator)

Michigan teachers face the challenge of being proficient in the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning within their classrooms. Unfortunately, teachers across the state are strapped by limited time, resources, and access to the latest applications of instructional technology. To make matters worse, as school budgets dwindle, opportunities for educators to attend conferences and meaningful professional development are becoming limited, if not extinct.

So how do we give teachers access to current examples of edtech "done right"? The REMC *Connected Educator Series* brings effective instructional technology strategies directly to the inboxes of every teacher in Michigan. Each video episode features a master teacher from Michigan demonstrating their use of technology in teaching, steps on how to get started, and ideas

which can be tweaked to work in different classroom settings. As *Connected Educator* episodes are produced, REMC directors across the state forward those links to teachers within their region.

Kit Hard, Educational Technology Consultant from the St. Clair County RESA, calls it "*self-directed professional development at its best.*" Amber Kowatch, Franklin Elementary (Ludington) and 2012 MACUL Teacher of the Year loves how "*teachers are being taught by other teachers and the enthusiasm and passion that pours out of the videos is contagious.*" Pam Shoemaker, Instructional Technology Specialist at Walled Lake Schools shares them with her teachers and says her teachers "*like how the videos are by practicing teachers who show how to use the technology without being overwhelming.*"

In the 2011-2012 school year eight

teacher showcases were produced and distributed to teachers throughout the state. Of the remaining 19 showcases, 12 are currently in production, and all remaining showcases will be distributed during the 2012-2013 school year.



Ashley McDonald, kindergarten teacher at Lakeview Elementary in Ludington, works with her students in the CES Showcase "Using iPads for Writing."

Days of Discovery

Over 150 Michigan educators from all grade levels and all technology skill levels attended technology-infused “Days of Discovery” focused on creative ways to use digital media in the classroom.

The REMC Association of Michigan and Discovery Education partnered to bring six full days of multiple engaging professional development sessions for Michigan

teachers. They learned techniques to inspire students, network with educators and maximize streaming resources.

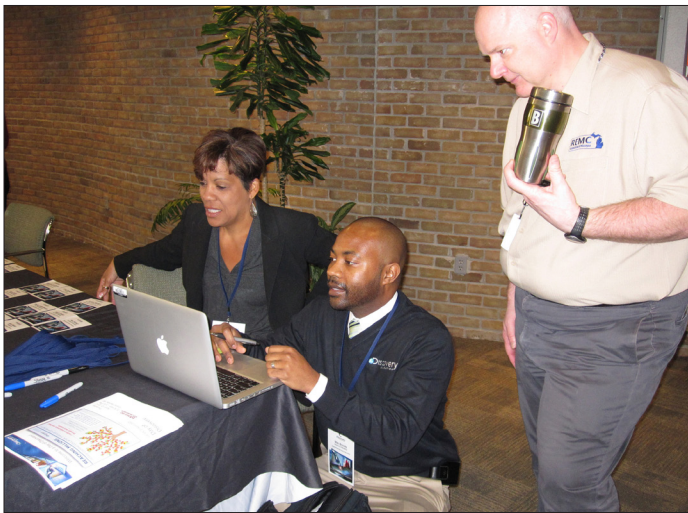
The 2010-11 Days were hosted by REMC 8, REMC 10, REMC 12W, REMC 18S, REMC 19W and REMC 20. There was no charge for participants at these events.

The Day of Discovery experience includes

- Deep exploration of the rich variety of digital content available within Discovery Education

- Integration strategies and exemplary learning experiences to bring digital content alive in your classroom and engage students across the curriculum
- Thorough exposure to a wealth of professional development resources including continuous support through the Discovery Educator Network.

Contact your local REMC director for a list of the six “Days of Discovery” to be offered across the state during the 2012-13 school year.



REMC MI Streamnet www.mistreamnet.org

MI Streamnet continues to grow and extend its capacity to deliver professional development and curriculum-based resources for Michigan educators.

Many long anticipated and positive changes were made to the MI Streamnet network architecture during 2011-12. We migrated to a more robust reporting and usage statistic function, instituted the use of Google Analytics and made the decision to virtualize the parent and shunt servers. This will result in an overall cost savings, and will provide an increase in overall reliability and failure protection.

Our longtime webmaster, Darrell Wana-maker, accepted a new position in March. His departure necessitated a rapid-fire training of the REMC 20 production team in the content origination and upload process. A new webmaster will be hired over the summer and we look forward to his joining the project.

MI Streamnet content postings rose dramatically in 2011. The number of visits topped 90,000, and the number of views exceeded 148,000. The total number of

new assets grew from 117 in 2010 to 470 in 2011. There were 54 live events, almost exclusively during the school year. As part of our collaborations with MDE, MACUL and iTunes U, 147 titles have been posted to iTunes U.

Over the coming months, REMC MI Streamnet will undergo a full version change. We will embrace the look and feel that has been adopted by the REMCAM's other web presences. In the course of that version upgrade, project staff will begin the process of improving the functionality of the site. Key changes will include improving the web interface, making all assets deliverable through mobile technologies, and to finalize the configuration of the relay servers throughout the state.

“The relationship between MI Streamnet and Michigan’s MI Learning site on iTunes U enhances both the delivery and storage of learning resources for educators and

students throughout Michigan and beyond. New curriculum and professional development collections shared through MI Streamnet can be RSS fed to MI Learning with



guaranteed storage of these learning resources in one repository. REMC's throughout the state are encouraged to share the broad curriculum and PD resources they have gathered for their regions through this medium.”

Judy Paxton, MACUL MI Learning Manager

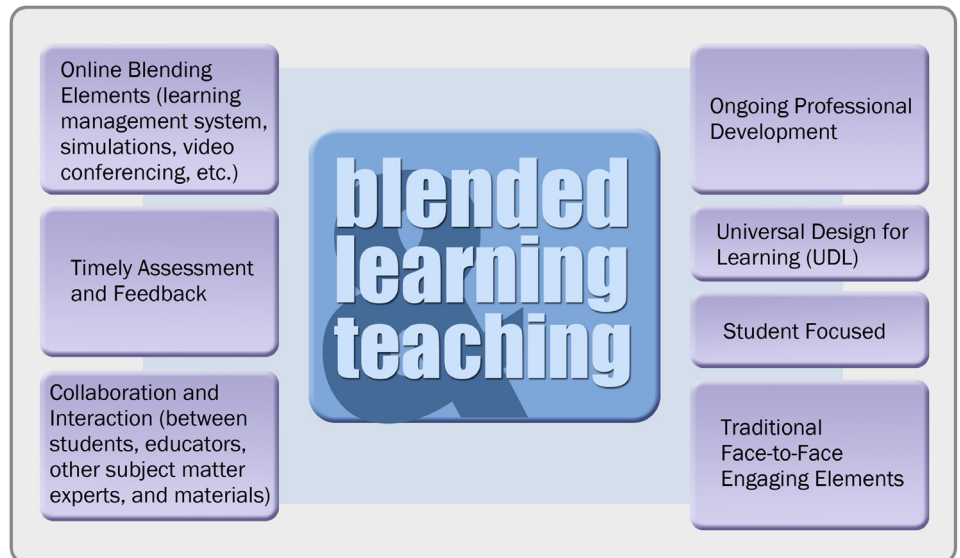
Blended Learning in the Classroom

www.remc.org/blendedlearning

The Blended Learning in the Classroom (BLiC) project is a free professional development course created to provide teachers with effective training and sustained support in order to effectively transition to a blended model in their own educational arena. The ten week course is designed based on research and effective practice strategies and provides participants with pedagogically sound approaches to effectively implementing a blended environment. The course is taught in a blended learning format, during which participants use blended learning theory and practice, and implement the new skills learned with their current students.

In July a team reviewed all research and course elements to determine if the course content is thorough enough to be effective and will ensure success. Additionally, an outside evaluator working with the BLiC management team from the course onset will present an objective evaluation for all elements of the project from design through implementation.

Instructors for the course must have experience with online/blended teaching as



A Variety of Elements Encompass Blended Learning and Teaching

well as providing professional development to adults. To date, ten instructors out of 50 applicants have been hired for the initial pilot course. Instructors will complete their training using a blended model during the month of August.

A controlled pilot course for 100 teachers will be offered in the early Fall of 2012. Two additional course offerings will be made during the 2012-2013 school year. CEU's will be available for all course sessions following the pilot.



After having been enrolled as a student in an ISD run of the Teaching & Learning in a Blended Classroom (of which this program is based) course in 2011, I am excited and proud to have the opportunity to participate as an instructor for the upcoming fall. A great deal of time and effort has clearly been put into the development of this REMC project. The three-tiered application process used to screen instructors for the course is an example of this detailed organizational planning. Communication and emails from the Project Managers have been timely and efficient. I sense that the REMC Blended Learning in the Classroom project is headed for success in Michigan and that this undertaking will be watched with great interest by other states!"

Margaret Lincoln, Ph.D. Lakeview Schools District Librarian

Leadership in Action

Mike Richardson

REMC 1 - TWICE
Board of Directors Award,
Merit Advisory Council

Anne Thorp

REMC 7
MACUL Outstanding Technology-Using
Educator, 2012

Ron Houtman

REMC 8
MACUL Board of Directors

Kevin Clark

REMC 11
MACUL Board of Directors

Mike Oswalt

REMC 12E Calhoun
MACUL President, 2011-12

Laura Cummings

REMC 17
MACUL Board of Directors

REMC Association of Michigan Contact Information

Anupam Chugh

President, REMC 20
chugha@resa.net | 734.334.1500

Tim Davis

Past President, REMC 2N
davist@charemisd.org | 231.342.5407

Sue Schwartz

Executive Director
sueschwartz@remc.org | 517.521.4871