

# WEST BRANCH-ROSE CITY AREA SCHOOLS

*Daniel J. Cwayna, Superintendent*

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November 19, 2013

Northern Transformation Corporation  
2389 S. M-76  
West Branch, MI 48661

To Whom It May Concern:

West Branch-Rose City Area Schools (WBRC) is a preschool through grade twelve public education school district located in rural Ogemaw County, Michigan. WBRC has two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school, with a total pupil count of approximately 2000.

Ogemaw County has a high rate of poverty, approximately 17% as of 2013. Poor nutrition and diminished health, affecting a student's ability to concentrate and learn, are examples of the many trials facing our educational community in Ogemaw County. Challenges with some students can frequently be attributed to the lack of hope and optimism that can accompany low socio-economic status and financial hardships. WBRC strives to maintain a strong meal program providing breakfast and lunch to students in need and at risk.

Between 2011 and 2013, as a result of rigorous efforts to improve the educational performance of our students, test scores for WBRC were raised district wide in 13 of the 23 designated performance areas, in spite of the increasing number of students who struggle with either poverty and/or dysfunctional home situations.

Like most public school districts in Michigan, our demographics are changing and our enrollment is declining, significantly impacting the financial support received from our state government. We are working to find financial balance while challenged to maintain a strong educational system for our students.

We are pleased to be invited to partner with the Promise Zone Initiative, in the hope this partnership can open opportunities to help battle both high poverty and low educational achievement, thereby enriching the lives our students and families.

On November 18, 2013, our Board of Education adopted a Promise Zone Initiative Resolution to support the bond between our organizations, which is enclosed. We are also including a copy of our District School Improvement plan which serves as evidence of our strategies and goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel J. Cwayna".

Daniel J. Cwayna  
Superintendent