Allied Health Hart Section Relocation
Questions and Answers

Q: Why is West Shore ESD moving the morning section of Allied Health from Hart High School to the CTE center at West Shore Community College?

A: There are three primary reasons why this section is being relocated:

1. Moving this section of the Allied Health class to the CTE Center at WSCC provides students attending with significant instructional benefits.

   The class will have more instructional space and designated lab facilities. Due to space limitations in Hart High School, there has been no separate lab established at the Hart location since the class began there in 2012. After the move, all students in Allied Health will have access to a separate lab facility which will allow more hands on learning in the program. In addition to the improved laboratory experiences, students will also be able to access high tech, high cost equipment shared with West Shore Community College’s nursing program that would not be available at the Hart location.

2. In November, Hart gave West Shore ESD written notification that we would need to remove one of the four West Shore ESD programs from Hart High School beginning in 2016-17 school year due to their facility space limitations.

   West Shore ESD currently leases space to offer four programs in Hart High School. Allied Health became the logical choice to relocate since there is now and will continue to be readily available classroom and separate laboratory space at the CTE center. In short, we are able to vacate space that Hart needs to use for other purposes and improve the teaching and learning situation for Hart and Shelby students at the same time.

3. Moving this section of Allied Health to the CTE Center at WSCC allows the ESD to expend CTE resources more efficiently.

   Investing financial resources in high-cost programs such as Allied Health in two locations which are only utilized half of the time is not cost effective. Even if there was classroom space in Hart High School, to assign two classrooms to a program that only uses those rooms for a small portion of the day, is not financially sound. The ESD strives to make every CTE program offered a premier quality CTE program. Since 1988, WSCC and WSESD have had a strong partnership and as a result of this relationship, students have benefited by having access to more resources, better equipment, and enhanced facility spaces. Relocating this high cost program in partnership with West Shore Community College at the CTE center allows us to accomplish that goal within budgetary constraints.
Q: Does this program relocation mean that many Hart and Shelby students will no longer be able to access the program?

A: No. Hart and Shelby students will be able to access the improved facilities in the relocated Allied Health program in the same manner they access all other CTE programs offered at the center. The ESD staff is committed to working with counselors and administrators to minimize the access challenges created by the move. We sincerely want Hart and Shelby students to have access to this valuable program and all other CTE programs offered at our CTE center. Students in Hart and Shelby taking Allied Health at the CTE center next year will necessarily have one less instructional class than if the class was offered in Hart due to the time needed for transportation. Although this is an educational challenge to the relocation of the program, we feel the teaching and learning improvements resulting from this move will far outweigh this challenge. This challenge is the same issue faced by students in several school districts whose students have longer bus rides to the CTE center. Other districts whose students have long bus rides to the CTE center facilitate addressing this challenge in a variety of ways. In some cases, students are scheduled for one on-line course to make up for the lost classroom instructional time. On-line learning is becoming increasingly utilized to address a number of educational challenges such as this.

To help facilitate this option, school districts with a bus ride longer than 30 minutes such as Hart and Shelby are being offered Wi-Fi access paid for by West Shore ESD on the busses which transport students to the CTE Center. This Wi-Fi service would allow students to have additional internet connected work time while riding the bus to the CTE center location.

Q: When Allied Health is moved to the CTE center next year, won’t Hart, Shelby and Walkerville students be shortchanged? How is the $600,000 of annual CTE tax revenue generated by Hart, Shelby, Walkerville taxpayers since the merger of the two ISD’s being utilized?

A: Hart, Shelby and Walkerville students are not being short changed. This year there are 91 Hart, Shelby and Walkerville students taking CTE classes through West Shore ESD and another 34 students taking CTE classes at the Newaygo County Career Tech Center.

- The year before the merger occurred, Hart, Shelby and Walkerville sent at total of only 65 students to any CTE programs and paid for those programs on a per pupil basis.
- When the merger occurred, Hart, Shelby and Walkerville immediately obtained free access to millions of dollars of capital investments in the CTE programs at the CTE center at West Shore Community College paid for by Mason-Lake ISD taxpayers over the previous twenty-five years.
- After the merger of the two ISD’s the additional new tax revenue has helped to facilitate the addition of three new CTE programs which are now available to all students in the West Shore ESD service area; AgriScience, Information Technology, and Educator Academy. An additional section of Allied Health has also been added. Starting up new programs requires significant initial investments as well as creating ongoing costs.
At the end of first semester, there were 91 Hart, Shelby and Walkerville students taking CTE classes through West Shore ESD and another 34 taking CTE class from the Newaygo County Career Tech Center. These classes are paid for entirely with CTE tax revenue generated from the West Shore ESD service area. The $3,846,397 budgeted CTE dollars for 2015-16 served a total of 492 students in West Shore ESD programs and another 34 students at the Newaygo County Career Tech Center at an average cost of $7,313 per student. Multiplying that per-pupil amount by the 125 Hart, Shelby and Walkerville students taking CTE classes equals a total benefit of $914,125 for taxpayers’ $600,000 investment.