

Learn new skills and help your students become knowledgeable and active stewards of the Great Lakes!



The West Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative (WMGLSI) is a collaborative effort of the MAISD Regional Mathematics and Science Center and the Muskegon Conservation District that helps students and their teachers work with local organizations to study and address important environmental issues in their communities. In the process, students learn academic content and practice the skills of problem-solving and citizenship. With the help of educators like you, and civic leaders and community partners, the WMGLSI:

- *Helps young people become effective environmental stewards*
- *Encourages schools and community organizations to work together for mutual benefit*
- *Contributes to the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, a program that expands classrooms and strengthens communities across Michigan*

WMGLSI's goal

One important way to protect the Great Lakes is to provide opportunities for young people to learn about them through **place-based education**, which uses the local environment as a starting point for teaching and learning. This method involves hands-on explorations that feature inquiry, discovery, and problem-solving, all of which develop students' academic skills and habits of mind. Students study real-world issues that are relevant to their own lives and to the lives of others in their communities.

Benefits of joining WMGLSI

By joining the WMGLSI, you have access to:

- Effective professional development that helps you understand and practice place-based education, including:
 - How to build school-community partnerships
 - How to work outdoors with students
 - How to facilitate stewardship efforts that improve communities and the environment
- Exciting lesson plans/units that focus on environmental stewardship and correlate with the Michigan Merit Curriculum
- A community of fellow teachers who share your goal of developing the next generation of stewards of the Great Lakes
- Grant funds to support place-based projects in the local community

For more information,
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The Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative was launched in 2007 to develop knowledgeable and active stewards of the environment and protect the Great Lakes through hands-on learning in the community. The GLSI is funded by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, with additional support from the Wege Foundation. Other funders include the Community Foundation for Muskegon County, the Fremont Area Community Foundation, the Frey Foundation, and the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. For more information, visit www.glstewardship.org.