

Athens Area Schools

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Richard P. Franklin, Superintendent

www.athensk12.org

Reductions and Shared Services: A Brief History

- Summer 2004 Acquisition of free, used computers through United States Military's Computers for Learning program begun. Pickups through this program and from private donors have yielded millions of dollars worth of equipment over a period of seven years and counting.
- July 1, 2005 Athletic Directorship as half-time teacher position eliminated; high school principal assumed additional responsibility of athletic directorship.
- Microsoft Windows Operating System and office suite replaced with free Linux OS and OpenOffice suite.
- June 30, 2006 Laid off 2 high school teachers and eliminated business and FACS classes; laid off 1 counselor; combined roles of elementary and middle school counselor into one, shared position.
- September 2006 Bus mechanic resigned; replaced with part-time, at-will mechanic; currently employing Pennfield Community Schools' mechanic after-hours and weekends.
- March 12, 2007 Mutual aid agreement with Village and Township of Athens, including fuel purchasing.
- July 1, 2007 Purchased finance services from Calhoun ISD in lieu of replacing business manager after resignation.
- July 1, 2007 High school principal retired, contracted back through third-party administrator for three years--saving retirement, benefit, and some salary costs.
- July 1, 2008 Elementary principal retired, contracted back through third-party administrator for two years--saving retirement, benefit, and some salary costs.
- Sep./Oct. 2008 Superintendent assumed responsibilities of transportation director and food service director after retirements.
- Fall 2008 Cut golf and sideline cheerleading.
- Competitive cheerleading allowed under school auspices with volunteer coaches and self-sufficient fundraising.
- Instituted transportation fee for all students in all sports, with individual and

family caps and allowance for financial need

- June 2009 IT network administrator laid off, position eliminated, leaving only IT director.
- July 1, 2009 Superintendent/middle school principal created as combined position when middle school principal hired as superintendent, following resignation of superintendent.
- Laid off 2 elementary teachers.
- ISS supervisor retired, brought back under third-party administrator.
- August 2009 Superintendent joined Calhoun Area Educators Consortium (CAEC) as founding member, seeking shared services and savings.
- September 2009 Superintendent sought and obtained union concessions with all four bargaining units, including reductions or postponements in scheduled pay increases, increased contributions to health insurance premiums, and increased prescription co-pays.
- Winter 2009 Snowplowing contracted out to private company, reducing overtime and retirement costs for maintenance staff and vehicle maintenance costs.
- Spring 2010 RFP issued for privatization of food service. Two bidders attended mandatory pre-bid meeting. Both declined to bid.
- July 1, 2010 IT director's services sold on annual fee basis to Marshall Public Schools, reducing time in district but bringing in additional revenue.
- Elementary principal reduced to half-time and cost, still through third-party administrator; reassigned as director of curriculum, assessment, and compliance.
- Middle school closed, students and staff reassigned to elementary and high school buildings.
- Laid off 1 secretary, 2 cooks.
- Superintendent assumed responsibilities of elementary principal, with closing of middle school.
- High school library paraprofessional assumed duties of athletic director for no added pay.
- Director of maintenance hired back at 1/3 time/pay, following retirement.
- August 1, 2010 New high school principal hired on shared basis with Tekonsha Community Schools (90/10).
- September 2010 Half-time computer teacher replaced for year with long-term substitute.

Contracted with new substitute teacher service to reduce administrative costs and fees.

Email server and fee-based program replaced with free Google Apps for Education.

NHBP Head Start bus parked in our bus barn, shared mechanic, allowed use of garage.

Fee-based web filtering replaced with free Open DNS.

December 2010 Third-party custodial firm hired under attrition agreement; all but 2 custodial positions absorbed.

Spring 2011 New cooperative agreement with NHBP Police Department for fuel purchasing through school district.

Replacement of aging file servers and ongoing maintenance avoided by inexpensive cloud storage contract.

Village of Athens allowed use of water tower for portion of point-to-point radio bridge to bring higher speed Internet to East Leroy Elementary School.

Cooperative sports agreements explored with Climax-Scotts Community Schools on wrestling, competitive cheerleading.