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SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICTS: Skill centers operated by a board of education of an intermediate school district.

A skill center operated by a board of education of an intermediate school district is a public school.

Opinion No. 4900

September 25, 1975.

Honorable Tom Mathieu
State Representative
The Capitol
Lansing, Michigan

You have asked whether "Skills Centers," operated by a board of education of an intermediate school district are public schools. The question was asked in the context of the School Code of 1955, § 590b; MCLA 340.590(b); MSA 15.3590(2), which provides:

"No school district shall be required to transport or pay for the transportation of resident children to state approved nonpublic schools located outside the district unless the school district transports any of its resident children, other than mentally and physically handicapped children under section 774 of this act or children enrolled in special education classes, to *public schools* located outside the district, in which case the school district shall transport or pay for the transportation of resident children attending a state approved nonpublic school at least to the distance of the public schools located outside the district to which the district transports resident children and in the same general direction." (emphasis added)

A skill center operated by a board of education of an intermediate school district pursuant to the School Code of 1955¹ is operated by a public body corporate.² It is financed by the levy of taxes³ and by school aid appropriations.⁴ It is therefore my opinion that such a skill center is a public school.

FRANK J. KELLEY,
Attorney General.

¹ 1955 PA 269, MCLA 340.1 et seq.; MSA 15.3001 et seq.
1955 PA 269, § 330k; MCLA 340.330k; MSA 15.3330(11).

² 1955 PA 269, supra, § 296a.

³ 1955 PA 269, supra, § 330h.

⁴ 1972 PA 258, § 61; MCLA 388.1161; MSA 15.1919(561).