

MI OPEN BOOK PROJECT

# Families and Schools



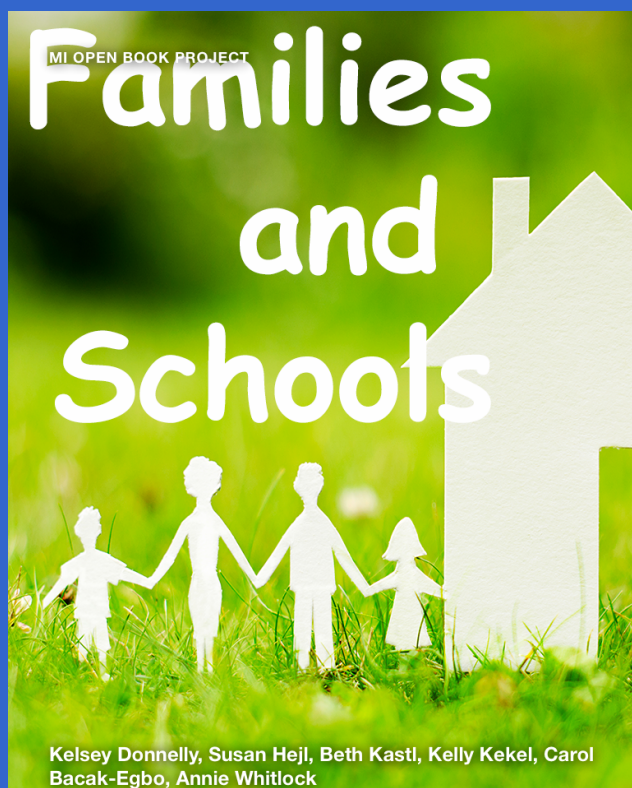
Kelsey Donnelly, Susan Hejl, Beth Kastl, Kelly Kekel, Carol  
Bacak-Egbo, Annie McMahon Whitlock

**Families and  
Schools**



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This is version 1.0 of this resource, released August 2017.

Information on the latest version and updates are available on the project homepage: <http://textbooks.wmisd.org/dashboard.html>



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## The Michigan Open Book Project

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## About the Authors - Families and Schools



### **Kelsey Donnelly**

**Coloma Elementary School**

*Coloma Public Schools*

I graduated from GVSU with degrees in special education and elementary education. I began my career as an educator in Glendale, Arizona working with students with autism and coaching middle school girls flag football. I moved back to Michigan in the winter of 2016 and began working as an elementary resource teacher! When work isn't keeping me busy, I am a big baseball and hockey fan and often you can find me at a sporting event.

### **Beth Kastl**

**Floyd M. Jewett Elementary School**

*Mesick Consolidated Schools*

Beth is an elementary teacher from Floyd M. Jewett Elementary school, where she has worked in a variety of grade levels including first and third grade.



### **Kellie Kekel**

**Lincoln Elementary School**

*Bangor Township Schools*

Kelly teaches first grade at Lincoln Elementary School in Bangor Township Schools.







**Susan Hejl**  
**KND Elementary**

*Kaleva Norman Dickson*

Susan has been a first grade teacher in the Kaleva Norman Dickson School District for 26 years. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Central Michigan University and a Masters of Arts in Curriculum and Teaching from Michigan State University. Outside of school, Susan enjoys singing, gardening, exercising, kayaking and spending time on the lake.

**Annie McMahon Whitlock**

**Assistant Professor**

*University of Michigan-Flint*

Annie McMahon Whitlock is an Assistant Professor of Elementary Education at University of Michigan-Flint. In addition to teaching the elementary social studies methods course, she is the Elementary Education Program Coordinator, focusing on the student teaching experience. Her research is centered on teaching social studies through civic engagement, place-based inquiry, and integrating language arts and literature.



**David A. Johnson**

**Project Manager**

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Dave began his career teaching 8th grade United States History in Mesick, Michigan. After almost a decade in the classroom, he took a job at Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District (WMISD) as an Instructional Consultant for Social Studies. He is shared across 11 ISDs in Northern Michigan that form the Northern Michigan Learning Consortium. He completed his Masters in Educational Leadership through Central Michigan University in 2011 and is Co-Project Director of the Performance Assessments of Social Studies Thinking (PASST) Project in addition to his duties as the Pro-



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Special Thanks to:

Jannan Cotto  
Dorothy Perry  
Amanda Weinert  
from Little Traverse Bay Bands  
of Odawa Indians for their  
assistance ensuring some of the  
cultural inclusiveness of our  
work!



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Special Thanks to:

Jim Cameron - Michigan  
Department of Education

Dr. Phil Gersmehl - Michigan  
Geographic Alliance

Carol Gersmehl - Michigan  
Geographic Alliance



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Joseph Baumann -

Joe joined the Cadillac Footlites in 2016, coming from having performed many times on the stage with Riverwalk Theater in Lansing, Michigan. Some of his favorite roles have been Lancelot in Camelot, Captain Scott in Terra Nova, and Nathan Rothschild in the Rothschilds.



Melissa Kendell -

Melissa has enjoyed performing in productions like Into the Woods and a Christmas Story. She's been a part of various charity performances including the annual United Way Murder Mystery and Dancing with the Y Stars.



Kelli Simons -

Kelli has been in many local theater productions including the Mother in a Christmas Story, the Baker's Wife in Into the Woods, Tansy McGinnis in the Nerd. She comes from a talented theatrical family.



## Chapter 6

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# How do people solve problems to make things better?

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# For Teachers

You may be tempted to skip this short section. It is brief in comparison to previous chapters but it is ultimately one of the most important. Students have spent their entire class period up to this point exploring and learning more about foundational social studies concepts. This is the chapter that puts it all together.

If the purpose of social studies is to create an engaged and knowledgeable citizen, this chapter is the blueprint for assessing what they've learned. Students are walked through a problem faced by a fictional elementary school classroom. The next natural step from here is for students to identify a problem their own school faces and walk through the same steps. In the end they will have identified a problem, looked at data, and ultimately create a plan of action for solving the problem.

Like the students in your class, this chapter is small but mighty.



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# How do people solve problems to make things better?

## WORDS TO INTRODUCE

problem

issue

## For the Teacher

**1-P3.1.1-** Identify public issues in the school community.

**1-P3.1.2-** Use graphic data to analyze information about a public issue in the school community.

**1-P3.1.3-** Identify alternative resolutions to a public issue in the school community.

**1-P3.3.1-** Express a position on a public policy issue in the school community and justify the position with a reasoned argument.

**1-P4.2.1-** Develop and implement an action plan to address or inform others about a public issue.

**1-P4.2.2-** Participate in projects to help or inform others.



When people live and work together, problems can occur.





Classrooms and schools can have problems. A **problem** is something difficult that needs to be solved. It can be hard to solve a problem because not everyone will agree on how to solve it.





When we work together, we can be problem solvers!  
Adults can help us solve them too.





We have learned about being good citizens. Good citizens are problem solvers too! We are citizens of our classroom and school. When we think like problem solvers, we help to make our school a better place.



Be a super school citizen by following these steps to make our school even better!

The first step is to think of a problem that you really care about! What is something you would like to see change at our school?





Egbo School had a big problem and they needed their students' help!





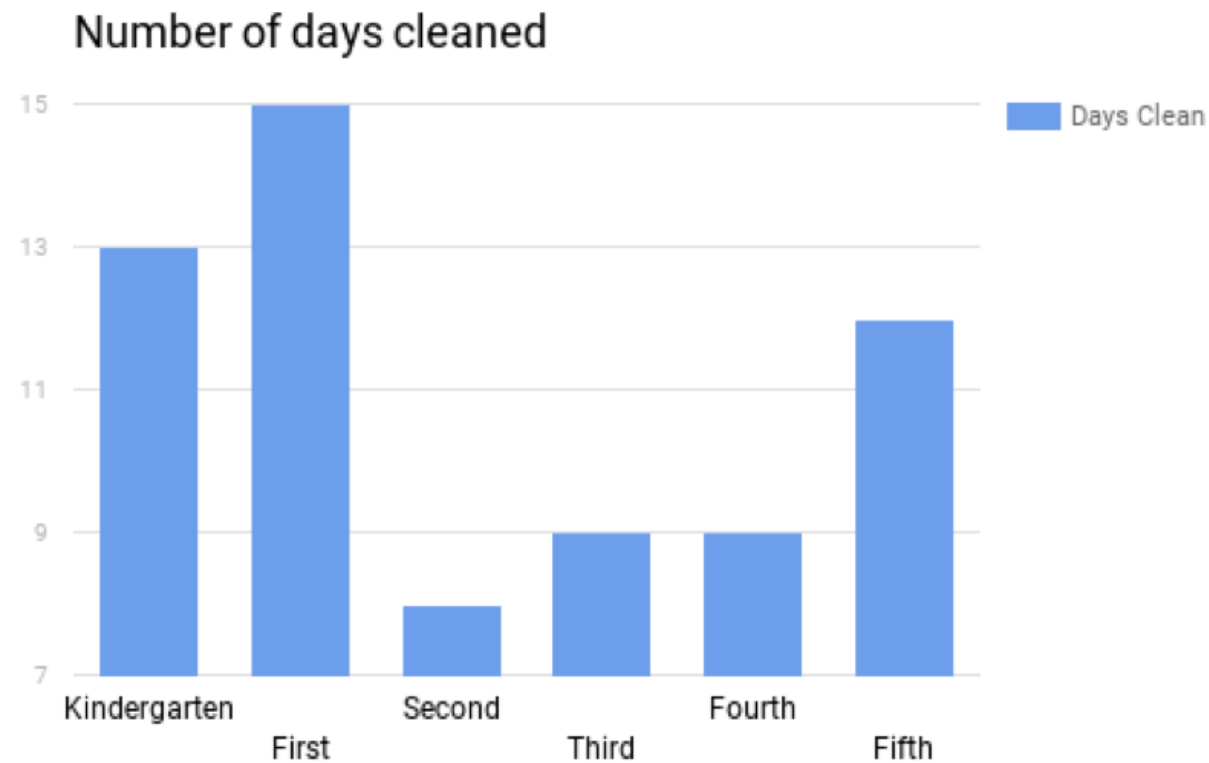


The school's problem was in the cafeteria. Students were not cleaning up after themselves. The lunch room was always left messy and stinky.





The students decided their messy lunchroom was a problem they really cared about and wanted to change. The next step was to learn more about the problem by collecting data.



The first graders collected and organized data. The students noticed that the second graders didn't clean as much as the other grades. They also noticed that all grades left their tables messy sometimes.





The next step was to think of ways to solve the problem. The students had to decide whose responsibility it was to keep their school clean. Some thought it was the janitor's job. Some thought the lunch aides should clean it up. Some students thought that each grade should help out. While they were talking, the trash mess kept growing!

Janitor should clean it up.	Janitor shouldn't have to clean it up.
It is the janitor's job to clean. They need to do their job.	If the janitor cleans it, then they won't have time to clean our classroom.

The first graders had an **issue**. An issue is when some people agree on one solution to a problem and others disagree. The teacher helped them make a graphic organizer of their issue. They made lists of why the ideas were good or bad. First, they discussed if it was the janitor's job.



Every kid should help clean.

Being a good citizen means helping out.

Every kid shouldn't have to help.

It isn't fair to have to clean up a mess, you didn't make.

Next, they discussed if it was the responsibility of every student to keep it clean.

What do you think they should decide? Who should clean the tables, the kids or the janitor?





After talking about all the ideas about how to solve the problem, it was time to vote on a solution!





After a long talk, the students voted and decided that every grade had to help. They made a plan to make posters and encourage everyone to clean up after themselves. They decided that every grade should take a minute to clean up before going back to class.





The last step to solving a problem is to make and carry out a plan to make sure your idea gets done! These students worked hard to make and hang posters. They helped remind all the grades to clean up and keep their school nice. Egbo School was clean once again. The first graders saved the day!



Now it is our turn! Let's save the day!





Be a super school citizen by following these steps to make our school even better!

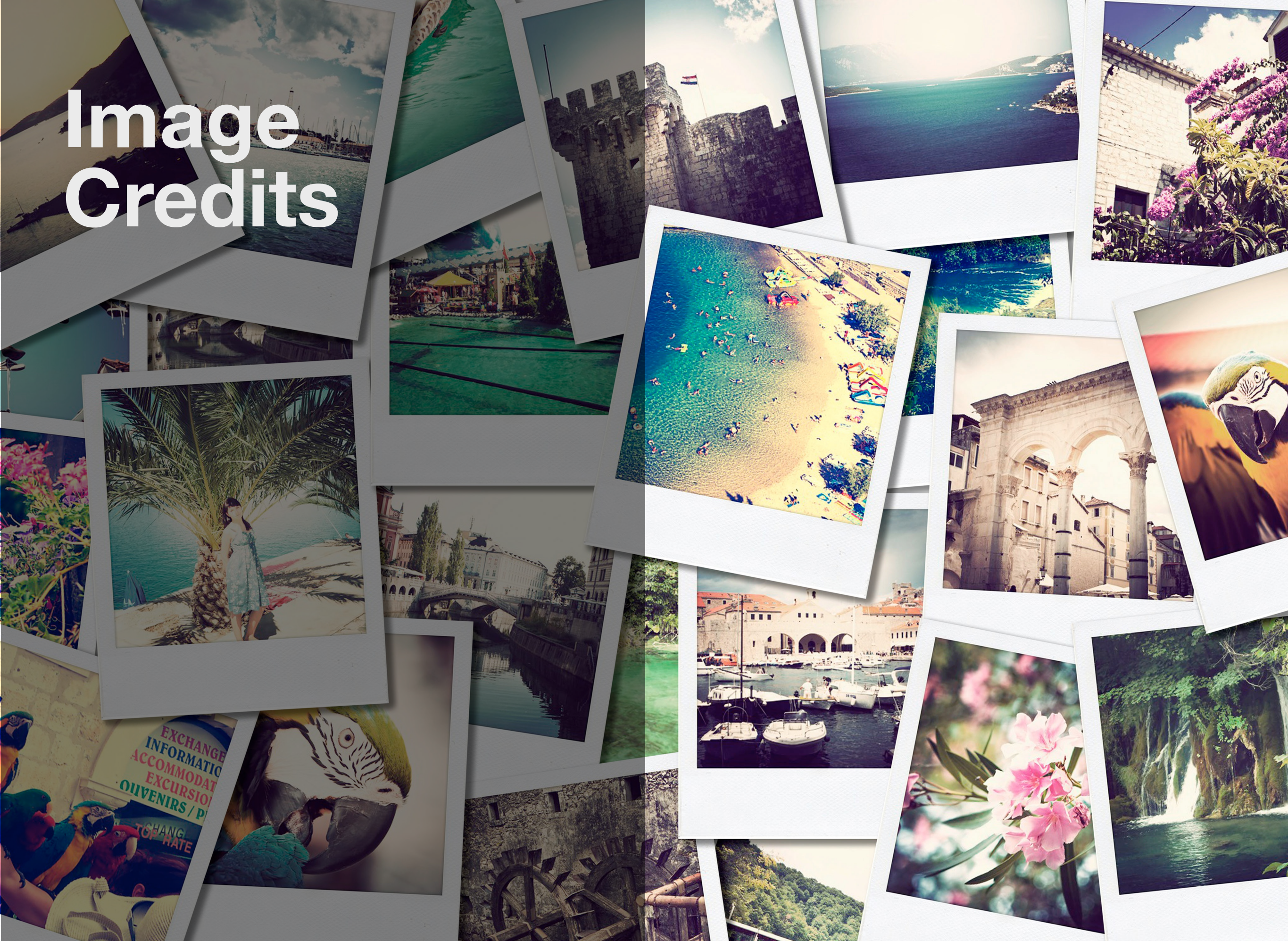
1. Think of a problem that you really care about! What is something you would like to see change at our school?
2. Learn about the problem by collecting data.
3. Think about ways to solve the problem.

4. Vote on a way to solve the problem.
5. Make and follow a plan to solve the problem.





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