

## GLAD, SAD, AND MADS ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR COMMUNITY

Board of Education		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Portage Pride Community Group</li> <li>● Quality School Board</li> <li>● Small town atmosphere</li> <li>● Splash Pad</li> <li>● Successful Arts Culture</li> <li>● Lots of technology</li> <li>● Fiscally responsible</li> <li>● Kids come first</li> <li>● Portage Public Library</li> <li>● Great Educators</li> <li>● Safe community to raise families</li> <li>● Student Achievement</li> <li>● Leaders willing to step forward</li> <li>● Community support for our schools</li> <li>● Great facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of community center</li> <li>● Lack of Portage Pride</li> <li>● Declining property values</li> <li>● Lack of quality jobs</li> <li>● Low participation rates in co-curriculars</li> <li>● Families struggling financially</li> <li>● Teachers feeling overwhelmed</li> <li>● Asking taxpayers for money</li> <li>● Dedicated teachers unrecognized</li> <li>● Declining enrollments</li> <li>● Poor Promoters</li> <li>● Teacher unease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All the negative press that schools receive</li> <li>● Community-Dying downtown</li> <li>● Lack of state commitment to financially support schools</li> <li>● Taking funding away from public schools</li> <li>● Act 10 has created upheaval in teacher/admin/board relations &amp; funding</li> <li>● Lack of growth in community</li> <li>● State funding cuts to education</li> </ul>
Administration Table #1		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Support of technology in schools Technology in schools (5)</li> <li>● Portage Pride group</li> <li>● Investment in technology</li> <li>● New hospital</li> <li>● Colleagues, 2</li> <li>● Public library, (5)</li> <li>● Community support for education (5)</li> <li>● High school band</li> <li>● Inclusion of all students</li> <li>● New pupil services department</li> <li>● Strong leaders</li> <li>● Well kept buildings</li> <li>● Musicals</li> <li>● Dedicated teaching staff</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Need better communication</li> <li>● Closure of the rurals, 2</li> <li>● Students deaths, 2</li> <li>● Hungry students</li> <li>● Lack of respect of all staff</li> <li>● Empty stores downtown</li> <li>● Mental Health needs-Mental health issues impacting student learning</li> <li>● State mandated assessments taking away from teacher</li> <li>● Lack of family involvement Families are too busy to spend time with kids Dysfunction in family life (5)</li> <li>● State mandates dictating assessments and C&amp;I</li> <li>● Closure of local business</li> <li>● Not a good coffee shop</li> <li>● Lack of restaurant options</li> <li>● Decrease in enrollment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of housing options</li> <li>● Lack of parents who take responsibility with their kids</li> <li>● When parents don't parent</li> <li>● Businesses closing Kmart closed, Kristas closed</li> <li>● Eye sore of houses on hwy. 33</li> <li>● Parents are too busy to be involved in kids schooling</li> <li>● Not enough time in day to meet needs</li> <li>● Lack of youth options after school for kids (YMCA, mentors)</li> <li>● Budget freezes</li> <li>● Lack of understanding of cultural relevancy - socioeconomic disparity-Growing divide between haves and have nots</li> </ul>

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Administration Table #2		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● community support</li> <li>● diverse opportunities for students</li> <li>● fiscally responsible</li> <li>● good and committed educators</li> <li>● excellent facilities</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● lack of growth-community and student numbers</li> <li>● teaching profession de-valued</li> <li>● mobility of families</li> <li>● continually being asked to do more with less/reductions-lack of adequate funding</li> <li>● we don't have the needed parental involvement</li> <li>● lack of birth to school programming</li> <li>●</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● private school vouchers-use of public funds and lack of accountability</li> <li>● politicizing of everything especially education</li> <li>● too much rental property/mobility</li> <li>● lack of apprenticeship opportunities for students</li> <li>● lack of respect--public schools are failing</li> <li>● continual reductions due to lack of funding</li> <li>● schools being blamed for non-school issues</li> <li>● not enough high tech jobs to bring people to our community</li> </ul>

Post HS Education/CESA 5		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to good education</li> <li>● Quality Educators who are committed and passionate</li> <li>● Opportunities for fine arts</li> <li>● We have a community who as a whole cares about the education of our kids</li> <li>● Glad that the community is supportive</li> <li>● Glad that the mascot changed</li> <li>● Diversity</li> <li>● Strong music program &amp; foreign language program</li> <li>● Fine arts program</li> <li>● Fine arts programs</li> <li>● Good teachers</li> <li>● Committed educators &amp; administrators</li> <li>● passionate teachers</li> <li>● Glad that people are willing to talk when issues are raised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Loss of course offerings</li> <li>● Excuses when sports teams aren't successful</li> <li>● Loss of student soft skills</li> <li>● That so many amazing, veteran teachers were forced out via Act 10 mandates/policies</li> <li>● That this community supporter referendums but not its students &amp; teachers</li> <li>● Sports team so unsuccessful</li> <li>● Negative attitude about some athletic programs (football)</li> <li>● Students graduate not prepared for college/careers</li> <li>● Students "soft skills" face to face</li> <li>● Focus of school on mid-low little advanced</li> <li>● Mental health social emotional issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Access to Internet</li> <li>● State &amp; Federal Funding</li> <li>● Too much testing and teaching focus on testing</li> <li>● Lack of respect for teachers and education</li> <li>● Not addition Math A</li> <li>● Mad at helicopter parents who may enable students bad behaviors or pressure teachers when their child fails</li> <li>● Sports, complacency poor programs</li> <li>● 7-class periods (prefer block scheduling)</li> <li>● Loss of block schedule</li> <li>● Amount of homework</li> <li>● Mad about the way some teachers are allowed to treat students</li> <li>● Communication nable to see lacking child's progress/issues</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>professional level</li> <li>● Good education</li> <li>● Opportunities for my kids school/community</li> <li>● Glad all my children attend here</li> <li>● Glad our students have access to a good education</li> <li>● Good technology</li> <li>● Inclusion with special education students</li> <li>● Use of technology in school</li> <li>● Inclusion</li> <li>● Portage academy of achievement</li> <li>● Community schools</li> <li>● Madison college in our community</li> <li>● Save schools</li> <li>● Athletic facilities</li> <li>● Clean well kept schools</li> <li>● Nice buildings</li> <li>● Glad to see more diversity among students</li> <li>● Success in conference &amp; state (baseball/softball/curling)</li> <li>● Dances, sports, extra-curricular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Schools having to parent</li> <li>● Less family involvement</li> <li>● Less family units</li> <li>● Sad there is so little diversity among faculty &amp; staff</li> <li>● Loss/less gym, art, music (specials)</li> <li>● Less course offerings</li> <li>● Learning opportunities are decreasing due to budget issues</li> <li>● That there's no school newspaper</li> <li>● Increased class size</li> <li>● Less money</li> <li>● Loss of some community schools</li> <li>● That schools have to make tough decisions about closing small, rural schools</li> <li>● Sad that people are misinformed about what our schools are facing</li> <li>● That the district's reliance on 1:1 computers/technology is such a focus and not on reading, writing process, &amp; basic skills</li> <li>● That we don't have a true community center in Portage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>that hurt his learning</li> <li>● Respect for education schools teachers</li> <li>● Mad at those who blame teachers when students don't succeed. (Teachers shouldn't be target)</li> <li>● Some parents blame schools for the behavior of their students</li> <li>● Teacher's assessment is based on testing</li> <li>● Testing in general</li> <li>● So much testing (Gov't regulations on testing)</li> <li>● That more people aren't outraged at public money going to others</li> <li>● Less money makes district choose tough cuts</li> <li>● Budgets cuts to education at all levels</li> <li>● Cost of college</li> <li>● Amount of school needed for many jobs</li> <li>● No guest wifi</li> <li>● No open access for all</li> <li>●</li> </ul>
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Teachers Table #1		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Community Support with referendums!</b></li> <li>● <b>Great Dedicated Teachers</b></li> <li>● Extra curricular offerings in the district</li> <li>● Daily 5/CAFE Framework</li> <li>● PBIS</li> <li>● <b>Technology</b></li> <li>● Sharing of ideas between teachers</li> <li>● Love teaching!</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● High stakes Testing</li> <li>● <b>Community make-up (Poverty)</b></li> <li>● <b>Mental Health Issues</b></li> <li>● Loss of a co-worker</li> <li>● <b>Declining enrollment</b></li> <li>● Politics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Lack of teacher respect</b></li> <li>● Closing Rurals</li> <li>● <b>Politics within education</b></li> <li>● Testing Mandates</li> <li>● <b>State Funding</b></li> <li>● Trying to be like other districts</li> </ul>

## GLAD, SAD, AND MADs ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS AND OUR COMMUNITY

Teachers Table #2		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● good facilities (sports/buildings/labs)</li> <li>● community support</li> <li>● good relationship between public and parochial schools</li> <li>● diversity of educational opportunities</li> <li>● inclusion of special ed students</li> <li>● I (we) have a job</li> <li>● technology availability</li> <li>● nice kids in Portage</li> <li>● rigorous course work/AP classes</li> <li>● excellent staff/teachers who care</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● children with parents who do not care about them</li> <li>● student apathy</li> <li>● drugs and alcohol</li> <li>● some teachers are no longer here</li> <li>● rising number of low income issues</li> <li>● disrespect for authority</li> <li>● negativity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● loss of quality staff</li> <li>● loss of block scheduling</li> <li>● negativity</li> <li>● lack of funding</li> <li>● disrespect towards teachers</li> <li>● political climate/losing local control/Act 10</li> <li>● rising class sizes</li> <li>● energy inefficient buildings</li> <li>● parental abdication/teacher is parent/parents who blame schools</li> </ul>

Other PCSD Staff		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Quality health care and care for the elderly in Portage (nursing homes and assisted living)</li> <li>● Opportunities for advancement by posting new jobs internally first</li> <li>● Public Library</li> <li>● Tuition credit reimbursement for continuing education</li> <li>● Extracurriculars offered to students (clubs, activities)</li> <li>● Clean and safe working conditions of all schools and office buildings</li> <li>● Good rapport with workers and staff</li> <li>● Glad that we have a great community support system for our schools</li> <li>● Chromebooks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not enough consequences for student actions</li> <li>● No Windows OS</li> <li>● Too much school competition- not enough Community school district</li> <li>● Need more student participation = better grades</li> <li>● Lack of parental involvement</li> <li>● Lack of support of parents</li> <li>● Lack of funding for education</li> <li>● Cut hours for support staff</li> <li>● Limited knowledge of technology</li> <li>● Rurals closing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Government school lunches</li> <li>● Negative coverage of school issues by the press- put in some good stuff</li> <li>● Lack of student respect in general</li> <li>● Lack of communication from above</li> <li>● Too little focus on academic achievement and rewards for achievements in grade school</li> <li>● Lack of parental support of rules and guidelines</li> </ul>

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Students		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extra-curriculars available</li> <li>• Advanced courses offered</li> <li>• Community support</li> <li>• School schedule</li> <li>• Good teachers</li> <li>• A la carte/off-campus lunch</li> <li>• School dances/homecoming</li> <li>• Supportive community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlying schools closing</li> <li>• Lack of school funding</li> <li>• Lack of student motivation/pride/support</li> <li>• Online gym classes</li> <li>• Support of School district by community/teachers by school district</li> <li>• Bullying</li> <li>• Breakfast/lunch programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of respect for authority</li> <li>• Lack of funding/unequal funding throughout departments/ extra-curriculars</li> <li>• Expensive lunch/bad food</li> <li>• negative political influence in schools</li> <li>• Schedule conflicts/class redundancies</li> <li>• Technology misuse</li> <li>• Lack of teacher participation in student lives</li> <li>• Secondary languages not required</li> <li>• Lack of student enthusiasm</li> <li>• Interesting/nonsensical</li> <li>• Not as many opportunities in outlying schools</li> </ul>

Business/Government		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• district has embraced technology advancements</li> <li>• district has built a relationship of trust w/ community</li> <li>• more discussion between city &amp; district this event is a reality</li> <li>• facilities are above average</li> <li>• money support from community</li> <li>• variety of clubs &amp; activities</li> <li>• dedicated caring staff</li> <li>• when I see or hear celebration of community school &amp; business success</li> <li>• business &amp; industry expansion</li> <li>• leaders not afraid to make decisions</li> <li>• tax payers understand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of respect from kids &amp; parents</li> <li>• politicizing of teaching</li> <li>• declining enrollment</li> <li>• canal not a project worthy of attention</li> <li>• volunteerism is a small group</li> <li>• high school ski team didn't continue</li> <li>• continual changes to curriculum</li> <li>• struggling football program</li> <li>• lack of recognition of success of students &amp; faculty</li> <li>• it can't all be done as quickly as I would like</li> <li>• took a long time to develop partnerships</li> <li>• many band students drop out at Jr. High</li> <li>• closing of Caledonia &amp; Fort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• state intervention on home rule issues</li> <li>• that we must consider providing secure schools</li> <li>• drugs are such an issue</li> <li>• when I see or hear examples of negativity about schools/business</li> <li>• has to go to referendum to operate</li> <li>• lack of participation by citizens</li> <li>• so many years to see effort to attract business</li> <li>• political polarization threatens, among other things, our schools</li> <li>• kids in certain groups = SILOs</li> <li>• so much focus on testing</li> <li>• food options</li> <li>• early release days, big waste</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expansion when explained</li> <li>lucky to live here</li> <li>varied interests attending this event</li> <li>baseball team's success</li> <li>safe</li> <li>school choices</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Federal &amp; state government shift responsibility w/o funding to local govts.</li> <li>students are cut from activities, mainly sports</li> <li>not enough relaxation time for kids today</li> <li>struggling football program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>of money</li> <li>loss of written spoken language</li> <li>threat of AP course deletion during referendum dialogue</li> <li>lack of potential for earnings of new staff</li> <li>fear of staff to make suggestions</li> <li>present state of the school environment for staff members</li> </ul>
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Community Members		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motivated teachers</li> <li>School facilities</li> <li>Quality teachers</li> <li>Public library</li> <li>Staff perseverance and creative energy</li> <li>Glad that I was involved in education</li> <li>The music we had today</li> <li>Great programs in our schools</li> <li>Successful referenda</li> <li>Number of people who are involved in improving the community</li> <li>Moving 6th graders to MS</li> <li>Community focus on increasing natural resources such as PATHS</li> <li>Improved student achievement</li> <li>Successful graduates who are positive contributors to our community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That my property taxes went down 12% when schools were closed and teachers were laid off</li> <li>Decrease of enrichment offerings in favor of testable offerings</li> <li>Treating those who learn differently as underachievers. Get the hands-on classes back.</li> <li>Lack of choices for those who have goals, not forcing them to fit the classes the school has to offer</li> <li>An overly linear approach taken to learners and learning</li> <li>Losing quality teachers</li> <li>Discontinuing classes and programs</li> <li>Class sizes</li> <li>How local funds are spent</li> <li>Loss of two rural schools</li> <li>Decline of the downtown area</li> <li>The factors that administrators and teachers have to contend with that are out of their control</li> <li>The dampening of creative and intellectual curiosity in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of good teachers</li> <li>Top-down management</li> <li>Too many hoops for teachers</li> <li>De-professionalization of teaching</li> <li>Using lack of money as an excuse to not allow teacher creativity</li> <li>Able to find money for administrative projects and salaries and not give teachers a raise for 5 years.</li> <li>Loss of programs and staff due to funding reduction</li> <li>Dismantling of public ed in favor of for-profit schools</li> <li>Dlvisiveness created by Act 10</li> <li>More isn't done for g/t</li> <li>Myriad of changes in curriculum, staffing and programming in the past few years</li> <li>State funding cuts</li> <li>Blame heaped on education community for all of society's problems</li> </ul>

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	<p>students due to overemphasis on testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pervasive climate of distrust for and in the teaching profession</li> <li>● Not being able to challenge the school board to allow for out-of-school experiences related to long-term goals</li> <li>● Discipline in classroom is so bad and is hard to change</li> <li>● We haven't heard more from students</li> <li>● Number of disaffected students</li> </ul>	
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Parent Table #1		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● increased utilization of diverse instructional methods/courses</li> <li>● great teachers/support staff</li> <li>● technology in our schools</li> <li>● good # of changes from 2006 to present</li> <li>● openness of admin/board for public input sessions</li> <li>● schools/teachers willingness to work with students/parents</li> <li>● special needs are mainstreamed</li> <li>● elementary art is 60 minutes (not shorter)</li> <li>● all the students know everyone in the school and all teachers know all students</li> <li>● attempts to bring in positive energy</li> <li>● support of school from community</li> <li>● community that supports school referendums to keep schools going</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● some administration show lack of respect for teachers and staff</li> <li>● students no longer get time for socialization or learning</li> <li>● community not responsive with career related help</li> <li>● daughter can not play violin in band</li> <li>● does community know what it has in our school district</li> <li>● school district can not pool resources</li> <li>● current moral state of families</li> <li>● lack of parent support</li> <li>● parents that cant handle own lives</li> <li>● lack of geographical knowledge for students</li> <li>● world history class didnt teach world history</li> <li>● all sports aren't treated equally</li> <li>● social/economic makeup of the community</li> <li>● makeup of the family single parent household</li> <li>● is there enough help being</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● too much testing</li> <li>● college focused education track for all students</li> <li>● there is not enough science in elementary</li> <li>● volunteers are underutilized</li> <li>● admin staff get more hours and benefits</li> <li>● athletic director gets assistant and teachers are losing aides</li> <li>● too much emphasis on sports that support only a handful of kids</li> <li>● more help for teachers to reach beyond boundaries</li> <li>● are we competitive enough in a global environment</li> <li>● classes moving to online teaching vs teacher teaching</li> <li>● support staff hours cut</li> <li>● kids have to team teach in class and are told to ask each other questions vs. having a teacher teach the subject</li> <li>● teaching staff assuming greater role in the direction of curriculum for the</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provided for teachers</li> <li>● increase of mental health in students</li> <li>● loss of environmental based curriculum</li> <li>● cutting of budgets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>communities children</li> <li>● river crossing charter schools closed</li> <li>● rural schools closed</li> </ul>
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Parent Table #2		
Glads	Sads	Mads
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community support of referendums</li> <li>● Community support of schools</li> <li>● Community support of library and splash pad</li> <li>● Great community support</li> <li>● Community built the auditorium</li> <li>● Great teachers</li> <li>● Teachers are committed to students</li> <li>● Teachers have great ideas at getting kids involved</li> <li>● Most teachers are very dedicated</li> <li>● Really great teachers</li> <li>● I know my children's teachers care and support them as individuals</li> <li>● Teacher attitudes</li> <li>● Our schools have some really nice technology</li> <li>● Glad about the tech opportunities for students</li> <li>● Lots of really great kids</li> <li>● Friends my kids have</li> <li>● Schools are still a relatively safe place</li> <li>● Endeavor did not close</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lack of parent involvement</li> <li>● Lack of parental involvement</li> <li>● Student who don't care/families that don't care</li> <li>● It is difficult to get more parental participation</li> <li>● So many 1 parent families</li> <li>● Continued bussing problems with inappropriate language/behavior</li> <li>● We don't support more Christian formats</li> <li>● Enrollment is down</li> <li>● Opportunities do not always exist for gifted students</li> <li>● Students care more about their GPA than what they are learning</li> <li>● Increase in behavioral/mental health situation but lack of consistent/concise knowledge of how to manage</li> <li>● Students are more involved with each other on social media sites than face to face</li> <li>● Athletics have such a high priority in HS</li> <li>● Standardized testing is driving curriculum and teaching</li> <li>● American pride has been removed – deference to multiculturalism</li> <li>● Not much respect towards teachers from students</li> <li>● Too many disrespectful students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parents do not review curriculum before it is taught</li> <li>● Witchcraft and foul language/situations in required HS reading material</li> <li>● Parental conflict with other parents</li> <li>● It is difficult to get athletic coaching that doesn't include parents</li> <li>● The arts take a back seat</li> <li>● Religious expression has been expunged from public education</li> <li>● More people should care that Christian counseling is not available there for the children who need it</li> <li>● No Christian clubs (that I'm aware of) but many "diversity" clubs.</li> <li>● Appears like a lack of consequences for actions</li> <li>● Fear of retaliation for speaking up about problems in school</li> <li>● Lack of respect for teachers</li> <li>● Inclusion (behavioral issues)</li> <li>● My children are respectful and quiet in the classroom and they get overlooked for the kids behaving inappropriately</li> <li>● Lack of academics for my kids because teachers are using their time managing kids with behavior problems</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kids and adults lacking respect and responsibility</li><li>• Lack of motivation</li><li>• More students don't get involved in more school activities</li><li>• More values and discipline is not shown by students</li><li>• Money takes the foreground in so many education discussions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Teachers can't expect respect from students</li><li>• More parents should be concerned about school funding problems.</li></ul>
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