



Northwest Education Services

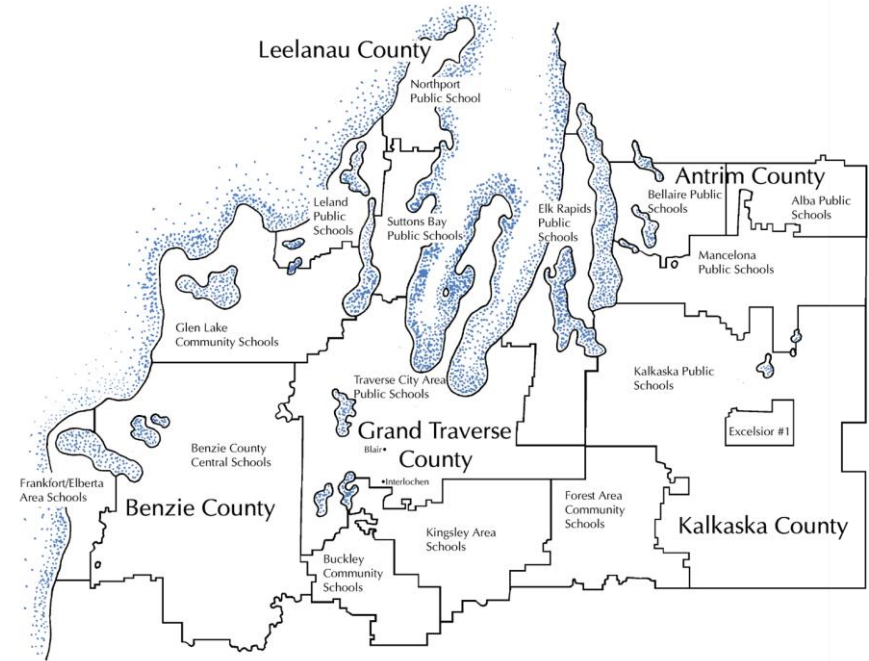
Regional Special Education Millage

Paid for by
Northwest Education
Services, 1101 Red Drive,
Traverse City, Michigan
49684

Benzie Sunrise Rotary | 9.27.22

Agenda

- Overview of North Ed
- Special Education
- What is the proposal?
- Why is this millage needed?
- What would it do?
- What is the local impact?



Overview

- Northwest Education Services (North Ed) is the intermediate school district (ISD) for Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties
- Supports local school districts and public school academies with:
 - Early Childhood
 - **Special Education services**
 - Career & Technical Education and Early College programming
 - Career Tech facility – 880 Parsons Road, Traverse City
 - Professional Development
 - Technology, Business, Transportation & Communication services

Special Education

- Current 2-mill levy supports roughly **3,000 students** (about 14% of region's total student population) with SE services annually
- **400+ SE staff** serving region
 - 8 service area supervisors, 1 compliance monitor & 1 curriculum coordinator
 - ~ 200 evaluators and service providers
 - ~ 200 teachers, teacher assistants and support staff
- Early Childhood & Infant/Toddler Services
- 4 Center-based regional programs
 - Bridgeway
 - New Horizons
 - Transition Campus/Life Skills Center
 - Creekside School

What is the proposal?



- **Restoration Millage:**
 - 0.5 mill for 10 years (2023-32)
 - Would need approval from majority of all voters across the ISD
- Would allow North Ed to **maintain existing 2-mill levy**
 - Current levy generates \$27.5 million regionally to serve SE students
 - Millage is largest revenue source for Special Education fund
- Taxpayers would not see levied millage rate go above 2 mills

Why is this millage needed?

- To Support Students!
 - Stable funding allows high quality SE services for 3,000 students each year who have greatest needs
 - **Legal obligation:** Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)



Why is this millage needed?



- Headlee Amendment Rollbacks
 - As property values increase faster than inflation, Headlee rollbacks decrease amount of millage levy
 - If property values continue rising, causing total millage rate to drop below 2 mills = less funding for SE services
- Only amount needed to maintain 2 mills would be levied
 - Proposal would offset future potential reductions, allowing full millage levy to be **maintained at previously approved 2-mill level**

What would the millage do?

- Support 3,000 Special Education students by funding:
 - SE services and programming in local districts and center-based classrooms
 - SE facilities
 - Necessary SE equipment purchases
 - SE staff professional development = More effective educators



What would the millage do?

- Support **ALL students** and **communities**
 - Local districts must pay for unfunded Special Education services
 - Millage would minimize unfunded SE costs, freeing up local district general fund dollars to fund a district's other priorities:
 - Facilities used by community
 - Improved programming and opportunities for **ALL STUDENTS**
 - General operating expenses



Impact at Benzie Central Schools

- **186 students** received Special Education services
- **16 (8 FTE) SE staff members** serving Benzie
- **\$387,765** in support of local district unfunded special education costs
- **\$424,250** was supported by Benzie's general fund

Regional Special Education Support to Benzie

34 Benzie students served by North Ed center-based programs in 2020-21:

9 Bridgeway
5 Creekside School
8 New Horizons
10 Life Skills Center
2 Adult Community Experience (ACE)

Other Services:

3 Community Connection
2 Early Childhood Services

Category of Eligibility	Benzie	North Ed	State
Autism	X	8.9%	10.9%
Cognitive Impairment	X	5.8%	8.4%
Early Childhood Developmental Delay	X	2.2%	3.7%
Emotional Impairment	5.4%	6%	5.3%
Hearing Impairment	X	1.3%	1.2%
Other Health Impairment	23.1%	20.4%	14.1%
Physical Impairment	0%	0.6%	0.7%
Severe Multiple Impairment	0%	2.1%	1.5%
Specific Learning Disability	32.8%	26.2%	27.1%
Speech/Language Impairment	28%	25.8%	26.4%
Traumatic Brain Injury	X	X	0.2%
Visual Impairment	0%	0.5%	0.4%

Data represents '20-21 | Some percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
 Data Source: MISchoolData.org dashboard | X represents service provided to fewer than 10 students and percentage is not defined to protect student confidentiality.

More Information:

- **Visit:** tinyurl.com/NorthEdMillage
- **Call:** 231.922.6200



Questions?