

# Northwest Education Services Annual Web Report

The Northwest Education Services (North Ed) Annual Website Report is a welcome opportunity to communicate with our community about how we prioritize our resources. Our spending decisions support our vision of “partnering to ensure every learner will have pathways to a meaningful life.” Our vision is accomplished by:

- Students/Learners First
- Collaborative Relationships
- Integrity
- Listening
- Responsive Service
- Diversity
- Equity
- Empathy
- Excellence

Our mission of “working together to develop learners with purpose, strong schools and engaged communities” requires prioritization of students’ needs.

North Ed supports school improvement efforts, provides cost effective business and technology solutions, offers programs for students, assists parents, and works within our community to maximize resources for all families. Similar to private business, we issue paychecks; support staff travel to trainings and conferences; contract with outside vendors for services; and incur legal costs. Unlike private business, we are governed by a school board elected by our customers: our local districts. Everything we do is subject to public review at any time, by any person or organization.

We invite you to learn more about North Ed. Please explore our web site by visiting the Career Tech, Regional Educational Media Center (REMC), Special Education Programs and Instructional Services, as well as all of the other North Ed web site links to better understand the depth of services provided to our constituencies throughout the year. If you have further questions, comments, or would like to arrange for a visit, please contact Shawn Biddle, Chief Financial Officer, at (231) 922-6200 or [sbiddle@northwested.org](mailto:sbiddle@northwested.org).

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Public Act 413 of 2004 amended the Revised School Code by adding section 620, which requires each intermediate school district to post information on its website by December 31 of each year beginning in 2006.

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**A. General Information**

**Pupil FTEs (Full-Time Equivalents):**

Total pupils served: 20,067.44

**ISD Employees**

The total below includes, but is not limited to:

Teachers, paraprofessionals, custodial/maintenance, office staff, administrators, job coaches, teacher consultants, social worker and driver's education staff at Career Tech .

Speech therapists, psychologists, social workers, occupational therapists, physical therapists, visual and hearing specialists, administrators, nurses, transition coordinators, occupational and physical therapy assistants, teacher consultants, teacher assistants and job coaches who serve students, ages 0-26, with special needs and/or impairments on site at area school buildings or at North Ed center programs.

Teachers for the Migrant Education program throughout the Northwest Michigan region.

Workforce development staff providing training services to adults within a 10 county wide area.

Math, Science, English Language Arts, Social Studies and Health specialists that serve students and educators in the five-county area.

Technology, business, special education, career and technical education, administrative and instructional staff that provide leadership, programs, efficiencies and services throughout the North Ed region.

Total Employees: 626

**Constituent Districts, PSAs, Nonpublic Schools**

Total: 34

The majority of students within the North Ed service area attend the following sixteen public school districts:

Alba Public School  
Bellaire Public Schools  
Benzie County Central Schools  
Buckley Community School  
Excelsior District #1 (Crawford School)  
Elk Rapids Public Schools  
Forest Area Community Schools  
Frankfort-Elberta Area Schools  
Glen Lake Community Schools  
Kalkaska Public Schools  
Kingsley Area Schools  
Leland Public School  
Mancelona Public Schools  
Northport Public School  
Suttons Bay Public Schools  
Traverse City Area Public Schools

In addition, North Ed also services the six public school academies and twelve private and parochial schools listed:

Grand Traverse Academy  
The Greenspire School  
Leelanau Montessori Public School Academy  
North Central Academy  
Old Mission Peninsula School  
Woodland School  
Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools  
Interlochen Arts Academy  
The Pathfinder School  
The Children's House – An Independent Montessori School  
The Leelanau School  
St. Mary Lake Leelanau Catholic School  
St. Mary of Hannah School  
New Covenant Christian Academy  
Traverse Bay Mennonite School  
Traverse City Seventh Day Adventist School  
Traverse City Christian School  
Trinity Lutheran School

### **2023-2024 Total Budget**

The 2023-2024 total combined expenditures for North Ed excluding transfers between funds was 96,236,306.

## B. Travel Information

In order to hold true to this mission, our staff seeks out best practices, gains state and national educational perspectives; gathers knowledge and skill levels that reflect the latest trends, innovations, and challenges. North Ed staff train and guide local experts – teachers, principals, and other school staff who interact with the students attending the 34 public and non-public school districts in our service area. This requires more travel to conferences and trainings than K-12 school districts typically experience. North Ed ensures accountability by requiring our school board to review and approve all out of state travel. Section 620 of the Revised School Code requires reporting certain information for board members and employees who have expenditures in excess of \$4,841 for travel during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

There were no travel expenses to report for the 2023-24 school year.

## C. Contract Information

ISDs occasionally enter into contracts with vendors to perform specific services that would not be cost effective or reasonable for the ISD to provide on their own. ISDs must follow state requirements for seeking competitive bids on some purchases, although often times, a specialized product or service is available from only one source. Below are the contracts required to be reported under this section.

<b>Contracts</b>				
<u>Subject Matter</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>BID</u>	<u>Signed by</u>	<u>Position</u>
Student Transportation Services	\$ 4,797,828.00	Yes	Ceglarek	Supt
Construction and Renovation Services	\$ 1,505,000.00	Yes	Ceglarek	Supt
Substitute Services	\$ 345,998.00	No	Biddle	CFO
Online Learning Services	\$ 336,345.00	No	Olson	Asst Supt
Billing Services	\$ 272,876.00	No	Greilick	Asst Supt
Training and Management Services	\$ 267,858.00	No	Olson	Asst Supt
Development Assessments and Home Visits	\$ 159,117.00	No	Olson	Asst Supt
Job Coaching Services	\$ 86,700.00	No	Greilick	Asst Supt
Environmental Services	\$ 81,536.00	No	Ceglarek	Supt
Architect & Engineering Services	\$ 79,000.00	No	Biddle	CFO
Interpreting Services	\$ 63,090.00	No	Greilick	Asst Supt
Audiology Services	\$ 58,827.00	No	Greilick	Asst Supt
Early Childhood Services	\$ 50,999.00	No	Olson	Asst Supt
Physical Therapy Services	\$ 48,849.00	No	Greilick	Asst Supt
Architect & Engineering Services	\$ 54,510.00	No	Biddle	CFO
Vocational Rehabilitation Services	\$ 43,380.00	No	Biddle	CFO
Music Therapy Services	\$ 40,950.00	No	Greilick	Asst Supt
Career Exploration Services	\$ 38,901.00	No	Olson	Asst Supt
Music Therapy Services	\$ 35,980.00	No	Greilick	Asst Supt
Early Childhood Services	\$ 33,201.00	No	Olson	Asst Supt

## D. Contract Modification Information

<u>Modification Description</u>	<u>Additional Amount</u>	<u>Revised Total</u>
Interpreting Services - additional days	\$ 38,600.00	\$70,820
Early Childhood Services - additional days	\$ 15,000.00	\$51,000

## **E. Salary, Expense Account, & Supplemental Compensation Information**

ISD employees are typically categorized by classification. Classifications are normally established according to demands of the position, level of responsibility, job functions performed, credentials and skills required, etc. Each classification falls into at least one established salary schedule, which takes into account such factors as seniority in position or in similar positions, comparison to similar jobs elsewhere in the community, cost of living factors, etc. In addition, some classifications require travel inside and outside of the ISD, attendance at meetings, and attendance at workshops and conferences. Expenses for these activities are strictly limited in a budget approved annually by the ISD Board of Education.

Those individuals employed by North Ed who have compensation packages within the top 3% of the organization, make up the leadership team. Many of these positions are for the special education service area supervisors that provide oversight services relating to special education students and services for our constituent districts.

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<b>Employee</b>	<b>Salary</b>
Superintendent	277,923
Asst. Superintendent-Special Ed	152,016
Chief Financial Officer	138,897
Asst. Superintendent-Voc. Ed & Community Outreach	141,926
Asst. Superintendent-Prof. Dev. & Innovation	133,053
Human Resources Director	123,451
Career Tech Center Assistant Principal	110,563
Special Education Service Area Supervisor	120,275
Early Childhood Coordinator	120,013
Director of Systems Improvement and Evaluation	121,065
Special Education Service Area Supervisor	118,713
Special Education Service Area Supervisor	112,921
Special Education Service Area Supervisor	116,389
Special Education Service Area Supervisor	112,988
Director of Communications	105,375
Special Education Service Area Supervisor	111,501
Director of Technology	112,392
Director of Teaching Learning, Instructional Services Team	113,319
Special Education Service Area Supervisor	109,032

## **F. Fiber Optic/Cable Equipment & Operating System Software for Fiber Optic/Cable Equipment Networks**

Many ISDs utilize fiber networks which benefit students and the community. These high capacity broadband networks interconnect districts, improve the delivery of internet, instructional, and administrative resources while reducing over-all costs. Through partnerships, ISDs, local schools, county and other governmental units, and Central Police Dispatch (911), have access to fiber wide-area networks that are more affordable for all partners.

North Ed spent the following amount in the 2023-2024 fiscal year for equipment:

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Expenditures for Fiber Optic/Cable Equipment or Operating System Software</b>
General Fund	\$ 668
Special Education Fund	\$ 1,791
Vocational Education Fund	\$ 577

## **G. Public Relations, Polling, Lobbying, and Legal Services**

The 56 intermediate school districts (ISDs) or regional educational service agencies (RESAs) were created by the legislature in 1962 to bring about quality and equitable educational opportunities to students and schools throughout the state. Because public education is funded and regulated by the state and federal government, it is necessary for ISDs to use some resources to fund activities that promote public accountability, research, and government communications. Due to the fact that North Ed is publicly funded, it is responsible for communicating to the school districts and community regarding the programs and services that it provides. The guiding principle for all activities of this nature is to advocate for the children we serve.

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>Services</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Thrun Law Firm	Legal	\$38,058.62
Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cuuminskey, PLC	Legal	\$350.00
NMSLA	Lobbying	\$13,525.00

## **H. IRS Tax Form 1099's in Excess of \$25,000**

Cost savings can often be realized by contracting with individuals for limited, specialized projects. For the calendar year, the following projects and services were accomplished under contracts that exceeded \$25,000:

<b>Vendor</b>	<b>1099 Amount</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Services</b>
KATHI B BROWN	\$ 33,835.00	Music Therapy Program	Music Therapy Services
DGN LLC	\$ 36,490.00	Annual Audit	Audit Services
THRUN LAW FIRM, PC	\$ 57,549.33	Various	Legal Fees
SEVERIN INTERMEDIATE HOLDINGS	\$ 53,658.93	Powerschool PD & Subscription	Educational Technology Management System
DEBORAH HALE	\$ 56,567.09	Audiology	Audiology Services
MUNSON HOME SERVICES	\$ 74,830.00	Nursing Services/Visits	Nursing Services
OTUS	\$ 161,347.00	Annual Assessments & Training	Educational Technology Management System
RESONANT EDUCATION LLC	\$ 28,500.00	Social-Emotional Learning Curriculum and Assessments	Assessment/Curriculum
MICHELLE VANDERMEULEN	\$ 36,513.66	Career Exploration Services	Education Consulting

**I. Certain ISD Expenditures**

**Administration**

Every organization requires leadership. North Ed and other ISDs within the state of Michigan have been charged by the Governor and the Michigan Department of Education to communicate, train, support, and lead educational initiatives defined by the state and federal government. ISDs are required by law to meet the individual and specialized needs of students within our region including the areas of Title I, Special Education, and Career and Technical Education. In the 2023-2024 school year, North Ed spent \$2,880,032 on administration, which is 2.99% of our total budget.

**Internal Public Relations, Polling, Lobbying and Legal Services**

North Ed is publicly funded and regulated by the state and federal government. It is necessary to use some resources to fund activities that promote public accountability, research, and government communications. North Ed is responsible for communicating to the school districts and community regarding the programs and services that it provides. The driving force behind all activities of this nature is to advocate for the children we serve. North Ed spent \$51,934 or 0.05% of our total budget in this area.

**J. Motor Vehicle Information**

North Ed serves districts in a five county region that is larger than the size of the state of Delaware. As a result of our large geographic area, it is more cost effective in many instances to have cars available for staff use. The majority of our vehicles are used to transport special education students to various sites in the community for educational opportunities.

<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
2004 Ford Pickup	Maintenance vehicle
2004 Ford Pickup	Maintenance vehicle
2009 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2009 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2010 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2012 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2013 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2013 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2014 Ford Fusion	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2014 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2014 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2014 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2015 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2015 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2016 Chevrolet Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
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2016 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2017 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2018 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2018 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2018 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2019 Dodge Pickup	Maintenance vehicle
2020 Dodge Pickup	Superintendent's personal and business related use
2019 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2020 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2020 Dodge Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2024 Kia Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use
2024 Honda Van	Pool vehicle for educational related use