



# *News Release*

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## **\$1 MILLION INVESTMENT MEANS MORE CAREER COUNSELORS AND CTE STRATEGIES AT THREE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICTS**

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LANSING – Three intermediate school districts (ISDs) will share \$1 million in state grant funds to hire career counselors and increase career counseling efforts for their students, the Michigan Department of Education announced today.

Marquette Alger RESA, Traverse Bay Area ISD, and Wayne RESA are the recipients of the Sec. 61a Career and Technical Education (CTE) grant in the State School Aid Act.

“These awards are just a first step to promote and enhance the career counseling happening in our school districts,” stated State Superintendent Brian Whiston. “As we work to make Michigan a Top 10 education state, it is imperative that students have access to multiple pathways towards career- and college-readiness. The counseling provided to students should allow them to consider all options that lead to a successful ‘what’s next’ after high school graduation.”

The three ISDs are to use the funds to hire CTE counselors to complete a catalog of available K-12 and other workforce development programs; develop outreach programs to educate students about CTE options and connect students to needed services; and to compile data on student placement for reporting in June 2018.

“I see these three ISDs as places of incubation for CTE and career awareness,” said Whiston. “With this money, they can help build strategies and best practice for use across the state.”

Wayne RESA will receive \$700,000 of the grant funds, and Marquette/Alger RESA and Traverse Bay ISD each will receive \$150,000.

“Our school counselors play a vital role in helping students become aware of opportunities that lead to great careers of all kinds,” said Roger Curtis, director of the Department of Talent and Economic Development, which has partnered with MDE for the Michigan Career Pathways Alliance.

“We know that so many counselors need more help. These grants are first steps to bolster efforts across the state, narrowing our talent gap and making Michigan stronger,” Curtis said.

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