

1. Student Success and Readiness

Center learning on foundational academics, future pathways, and inclusive environments.

- **Priority 1: Foundational Literacy, Mathematical and 21st-Century Skills.** Ensure mastery of fundamental literacy, mathematical thinking, and technology skills across the region by utilizing data-driven instructional recommendations and professional development.
- **Priority 2: Early Childhood Education (ECE) Optimization.** Strengthen ECE systems from birth through age 8 to increase family engagement and elevate outcomes for all learners through seamless, high-impact, inclusive strategies.
- **Priority 3: Career, Technical, and Transition Pathways.** Expand equitable access to Career & Technical Education (CTE) while establishing transition-focused programs for students with disabilities, ages 19-26, to empower them with skills for independent living and meaningful employment.
- **Priority 4: Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) Literacy.** Establish Marquette-Alger RESA as a trusted partner in responsible technology adoption, integrating AI literacy into teaching and learning to prepare students for emerging technologies.
- **Priority 5: RESA-Operated Categorical Programs.** Establish RESA-operated special education programs within local school buildings to bridge staffing gaps, support inclusion, and ensure students can attend neighborhood schools while meeting Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) requirements.



2. Integrated Support Systems and Wellbeing

Strengthen systems of care, safety, and belonging through comprehensive behavioral and mental health frameworks.

- **Priority 1: Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) with Fidelity.** Implement MTSS with fidelity across all Local Education Agencies (LEAs) by refining internal teaming structures and strengthening leadership capacity through professional learning.
- **Priority 2: Therapeutic Programming and Superior Shores Expansion.** Increase the capacity and age range of the Superior Shores Therapeutic Day Treatment program, integrating cognitive behavioral therapy with academics to foster educational development.
- **Priority 3: Student Behavior Support Teams.** Establish regional behavior support teams to provide school personnel with expert guidance, timely interventions, and resources for managing complex student behaviors.
- **Priority 4: Regional Mental Health and Crisis Response.** Strengthen regional mental health services and crisis response by providing annual Behavioral Threat Assessment & Management (BTAM) training and enhancing early intervention strategies.
- **Priority 5: Data-Driven Evaluation and Process Improvement.** Continuously improve services through data analysis and refine special education evaluation processes (including Specific Learning Disability (SLD) and Speech or Language Impairment (SLI) identification) to ensure consistency and equity across all districts.



3. Strategic Partnerships and Community Impact

Build an interconnected community to maximize resources and eliminate gaps in public education.

- **Priority 1: Unified Regional Advocacy and Alliances.** Cultivate strategic alliances across districts, non-profits, and higher education to advance a unified regional advocacy strategy for education.
- **Priority 2: Family Engagement and System Navigation.** Expand family support opportunities, connecting families to resources for mental wellness and providing guidance on navigating school systems and special education services.
- **Priority 3: Workforce and Industry Alignment.** Partner with local industry to align career pathways with regional needs through work-based learning, internships, and coordination between LEAs and postsecondary institutions.
- **Priority 4: Community Resource Coordination.** Coordinate data and community resources to address non-academic barriers to student success, including housing, food security, and mental health needs.



4. Advocacy, Influence, and Resource Mobilization

Provide leadership to advance education priorities and secure the financial sustainability of critical programs.

- **Priority 1: Educational Leadership and Emerging Initiatives.** Provide leadership on state and national initiatives, anticipating emerging challenges to offer best practices, information and resources to regional leaders.
- **Priority 2: Fiscal Stability and Resource Diversification.** Secure long-term funding for CTE, ECE, Special Education, and Technology through regional millages, grants, and external partnerships to ensure program growth and sustainability.
- **Priority 3: Specialized Workforce Recruitment and Retention.** Advocate for policies and implement recruitment strategies to secure a skilled workforce, including special education teachers, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), and early childhood providers.
- **Priority 4: Evidence-Based Community Advocacy.** Mobilize community support for education through strategic communication that resonates with diverse audiences and strengthens public visibility of Marquette-Alger RESA partnerships.



5. Operational Excellence and Talent Development

Strengthen the operational foundation and staff capacity to create conditions where all students can succeed.

- **Priority 1: Operational Efficiency and Resource Stewardship.** Strengthen organizational effectiveness through strategic alignment, operational efficiency, and responsible management of funds (including building capacity for high-quality data systems, analysis protocols, and feedback integration) to support sustainable program improvement.
- **Priority 2: Specialized Professional Learning and Coaching.** Implement a special education-focused professional learning program, including a Paraprofessional Bootcamp and job-embedded coaching for teachers and paraeducators.
- **Priority 3: Workforce Development and "One Marquette-Alger RESA" Culture.** Build a diverse, skilled workforce through continuous learning and optimize communication systems to foster a collaborative internal culture.
- **Priority 4: Infrastructure Resilience and Cybersecurity.** Strengthen data protection and digital infrastructure through cloud migration, security standards, and disaster recovery planning.