

Special Education

Marquette-Alger RESA provided targeted assistance to districts to develop and execute Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals for students with disabilities. Supported every learner through:

- Specialized instruction & programs
- Evaluations, school psychology, and social work services
- Speech, OT, PT & related services
- Autism, sensory & assistive technology supports
- Transition & postsecondary planning
- Professional learning, consultation & compliance support for districts

Of the 8,866 students in the local districts in our two-county area, 1,818 students have IEPs.

**Transition
Programming
for ~30
students ages
18-26**

**New: Developed Special
Education Community of Practice
- a group of special education
providers and administrators that
work to develop resources, and
address needs within the special
education community**

**Increased Superior
Shores capacity
from ~15 students
to ~35 students
annually**

**Compliance support
and assistance with
special education
legal issues**

Technology & Innovation

MARESA.Studio

Developed pilot AI Studio, bringing safe, private, and educational AI tools to students & staff

MARESA Website

Launched an independently developed website to ensure ADA-compliance and a more user-friendly experience

**AI-powered
chat for
efficient
website use**

Operational Support

Migrated to Michigan Statewide Educational Network (MiSEN) for internet consortium members, e-rate consulting, endpoint detection and response monitoring, fiduciary for MiCloud infrastructure and backup solutions, and emergency operations center planning

**4 new
schools
added to the
consortium**

SUMMARY OF KEY SERVICES

*Illustrating the reach and impact of the programs and supports
Marquette-Alger RESA provides to local school districts*

2025-2026

Early Childhood Education

Great Start Readiness Program

347 four-year-old students accessed free preschool across Marquette and Alger counties in 29 classrooms

Early On Intervention

205 referrals leading to 114 evaluations of students birth through age three to support any developmental delays or established conditions

Great Start Collaborative

Created prenatal bags with resources for pregnant moms across Marquette and Alger through partnerships with the hospitals and WIC

MI Tri-Share

Reduced childcare costs for families across the Upper Peninsula. Families of participating employers only paid one third of total childcare costs

College & Career Readiness

Career and Technical Education

Facilitated state-approved advanced training throughout 16 unique programs such as construction trades, health occupations, and business, with 1,500+ students enrolled

30 total CTE programs

Work-Based Learning

Coordinated and monitored career-related internship opportunities for high school credit. Placed 50+ students at 30 businesses or organizations in 2025-2026

Technical Middle College

Enabled high school students to earn their diploma, technical certificate, and college credits tuition-free. 85 students enrolled across 8 districts. Pathways included Healthcare, Skilled Trades, and Cyber Security

1,600+ students enrolled in total

Communications

Crisis Communications: Marquette-Alger RESA partnered with The Donovan Group to provide school district leaders 24/7 access to crisis communication experts to assist with responding to urgent crisis situations.

ISDs who enrolled were provided 24/7/365 access to this crisis communications service not only for their organization, but for all of their constituent districts as well.

18 ISDs from across Michigan enrolled in Crisis Communications support

13 ISDs utilized the Crisis Communications service

Wellness

Licensed mental health professionals, school psychologists, school social workers, and a school nurse provided social-emotional support and counseling to students. Crisis response teams deployed to districts when needed.

Comprehensive mental health & wellness services included professional learning, community collaboration, and direct services for students and families.

Multiple annual learning opportunities for school-based mental health providers

Homeless Support

The UP McKinney-Vento Program offered comprehensive assistance to liaisons to support unhoused students.

Health Education

Equiped educators to confidently teach critical health skills like nutrition, substance misuse prevention, personal safety, stress management, and disease prevention.

4,700+ group & individual therapy sessions provided

MTSS

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) and Continuous Improvement (MICIP) services available to all 13 school districts

8

Districts in MTSS implementation cycles

7

Districts with MTSS MICIP goals

8

Districts with complete MTSS reviews

1

District in MTSS review processes

Professional Development

FallEdCon25: 830 attendees participated in a conference featuring keynote speaker Myron Dueck. The event focused on student voice, AI in education, MTSS, and Visible Learning. Other speakers included Brian Buffington, John O'Connor, and Dr. Sonja Hollings-Alexander. As FallEdCon continues to grow, our 2025 event introduced three specialized learning pathways designed specifically for K-12 educators, early childhood educators, and paraprofessionals.

Principals' Summit: 100 attendees participated (over 70% of U.P. principals). Conference themes were Professional Learning & Leadership Development, Networking & Professional Connection, Government Updates & Statewide Educator Insights.

Job-Embedded PD provided on an ongoing basis by Marquette-Alger RESA teacher consultants and therapy providers

Technology: Provided professional development such as Becoming the Human Firewall New Teacher Academy training, Day of AI for School Administrators, and Region 1 Assistive Tech Maker Playdate with switch-adapted toys for students. Supported MACUL's professional learning opportunities for local educators.

500+ local district employees participated in **Handle With Care** student intervention training

Talent Together

Talent Together helped Michigan residents become certified teachers. Candidates received their education for free while earning an income. Marquette-Alger RESA plays a pivotal role in the Talent Together initiative by serving as its fiduciary, or fiscal agent.

As fiscal agent, Marquette-Alger RESA is entrusted with human resources and business office functions for Talent Together.

TalentTogether

852 teacher candidates statewide

350+ local districts partnered with Talent Together statewide

123 apprentice teachers in 25-26 school year