



Wells Township School District



MARQUETTE-ALGER RESA

SERVING SUPERIOR SCHOOLS

# SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE VOTE MAY 2ND



## DID YOU KNOW?

If approved by voters, the Special Education Millage Election will greatly reduce the special education funding shortages. Providing Marquette and Alger County's 12 local school districts and one public school academy with annual relief to their operating budgets.



# Serving Superior Schools

## How does this tie into our strategic plan?



# What is on the ballot? And, what is the purpose?

**What?** Special Education Millage Proposal requesting support for an additional 1.5 mills over the next 20 years.

**Why?** Special education services that are required by law have not been fully funded by the State and Federal Government. Therefore, this coming year the school districts within the Marquette-Alger RESA boundaries will be forced to make up the \$5 million shortfall from their general operating budgets.

# Who does Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency (MARESA) serve?

We serve the **students and educators** in the following schools:

- Autrain-Onota (Alger County)
- Burt Township Schools (Alger County)
- Gwinn Area Community Schools (Marquette County)
- Ishpeming Public School District (Marquette County)
- Marquette Area Public Schools (Marquette County)
- Munising Public Schools (Alger County)
- Negaunee Public Schools (Marquette County)
- NICE Community Schools (Marquette County)
- North Star Montessori Academy (Public School Academy - Marquette County)
- Powell Township School District (Marquette County)
- Republic-Michigamme (Marquette County)
- Superior Central School District (Alger County)
- Wells Township School District (Marquette County)

# Why ask for an increase?

In Marquette and Alger Counties, there are 9,063 students and about 1,600 are students with disabilities.

**20 M Revenue** (Local, State, and Fed)  
**-25 M Cost**  
**-5 M** (Annual structural deficit for local districts)

Annual costs include:

- More than 350 staff members (teachers, therapists, consultants, secretaries, administrators, paraprofessionals, and drivers);
- Transporting students more than 200,000 miles annually; and,
- Supplies, equipment, travel, professional development, dues and fees

# How do school budgets work?

- **Currently, the budget shortfall in special education results in fewer resources being allocated to other areas of the budget (i.e. revenue is limited and expenditures continue to increase)**
- **Some funding streams have significant restrictions while others are unrestricted**
- **Special education funds may only be used for costs identified as eligible under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education**
- **IDEA has safeguards in place to prevent cutting resources to student populations that are most vulnerable**

# How will local districts use these dollars?

It depends. The **decision will be determined by local priorities** but fully funded special education could mean additional resources for:

- Infrastructure
- Mental Health Supports
- Removing barriers to learning
- Advanced Placement Coursework/Options
- Extra Curriculars
- Lower student:teacher ratios
- School Safety
- Or other local priorities

# How much money will Marquette-Alger RESA retain?

## None!

The tax dollars collected flow through the RESA to benefit the local school districts.



# How are the revenues distributed?

**The distribution of millage revenue is determined by a distribution formula that is part of the Marquette-Alger RESA's Special Education Plan for the delivery of programs and services.**

**The revenue that will be returned to the local districts is based upon the cost to educate the number of special education students residing in the district.**

# What will the millage cost?

1.50 mill per \$1,000 of taxable valuation  
(typically 50% of **market value**)



Home with a market value of  
\$200,000 = \$150/year  
Or 42¢ a day

Home with a market value of  
\$300,000 = \$225/year  
Or 61¢ day



# What will the millage cost me?

## To calculate:

- Multiply the taxable value of your home by 0.00150.
- The taxable value of your home is a maximum of one-half its market value.

**EXAMPLE:** If you live in a home with a \$200,000 market value, the maximum taxable value will be one-half that...or \$100,000.

Multiply \$100,000 by 0.00150 to get your annual cost (\$100,000 x 0.00150 = \$150 per year)...or about 42¢ per day.

# Serving Superior Schools

## Will homeowner property values be affected if voters approve the ballot question?

Strong schools, access to high quality health care, employment opportunities and affordable housing are all fundamental considerations when determining the economic health of a community.

Research indicates that real estate values tend to be higher in communities with school districts that offer students a quality educational program.

# Miscellaneous Information

- ✓ Only the ISD has the statutory authority to levy this millage on behalf of the local districts
- ✓ The statewide average among ISDs for this millage is approximately 3 mills
- ✓ Currently, Marquette-Alger RESA levies 2 mills and will ask the voters for an additional 1.5 mills for a total of 3.5 mills
- ✓ The last time there was an adjustment was for Headlee in 2015

# Serving Superior Schools

## What is on the ballot?

Proposal Section

**Intermediate School District**

**Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency**

**Special Education Millage Proposal**

This proposal will increase the levy by the intermediate school district of special education millage previously approved by the electors.

Shall the limitation on the annual property tax previously approved by the electors of Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, for the education of students with a disability be increased by 1.5 mills (1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 20 years, 2023 to 2042, inclusive; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$4,765,811 from local property taxes authorized herein?



# SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE VOTE MAY 2, 2023

## WHY?

### SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES REQUIRED BY LAW HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY FUNDED

- Special Education Services in Marquette and Alger counties are underfunded by \$4.8 million
- School districts use general fund dollars to cover the shortage
- This reduces the resources available for programs and services for all students

## THE COST 42¢ A DAY PER HOUSEHOLD

The 20-year Special Education Millage Proposal calls for a 1.5 mill tax increase. If approved by voters, most Marquette and Alger county households\* will pay 42¢ per day or less.

\*based on a market value of \$200,000.



## IF THE MILLAGE PASSES



### SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING WILL BE INCREASED

The \$4.8 million collected will be used for local district special education costs, providing general fund relief.

## GENERAL FUND RELIEF

Local public school districts may plan to spend their unrestricted general fund relief dollars on investments such as:

- Improved learning environments
- Mental health supports
- Safety & infrastructure updates
- Extracurricular activities
- Added classroom support

FOR MORE INFO SCAN THE  
QR CODE TO THE RIGHT OR VISIT

[MARESA.ORG/SPECIAL-EDUCATION-MILLAGE-2023/](https://MARESA.ORG/SPECIAL-EDUCATION-MILLAGE-2023/)







# Questions?



Contact Greg Nyen at [gnyen@maresa.org](mailto:gnyen@maresa.org)







**THANK YOU!**

