



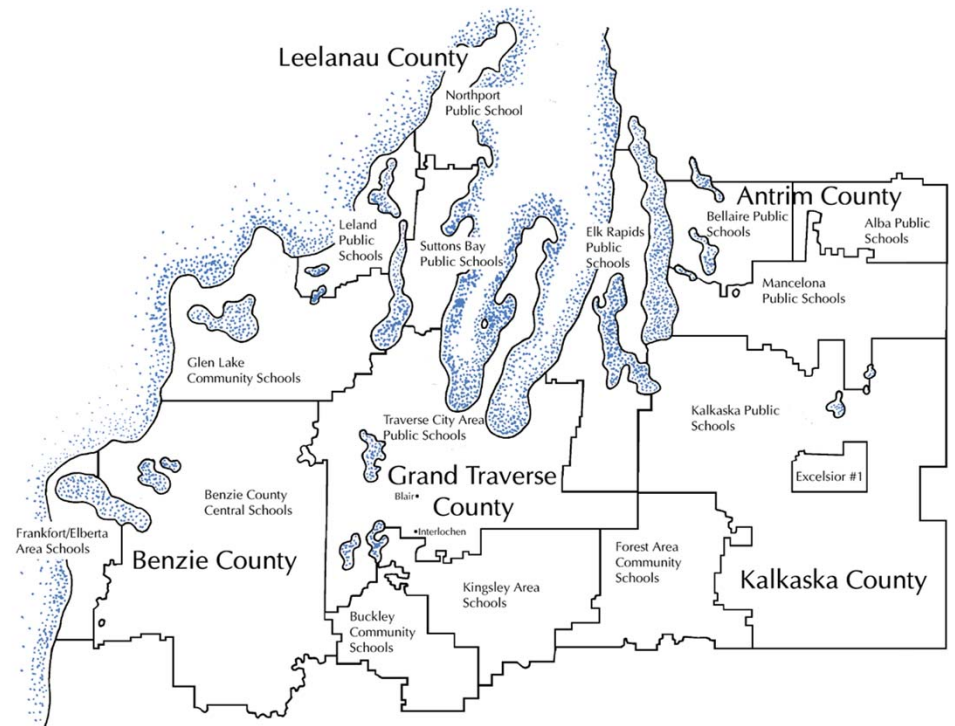
## Regional Special Education Millage

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners | 10.11.22

Paid for by  
Northwest Education  
Services, 1101 Red Drive,  
Traverse City, Michigan  
49684

# Agenda

- Overview of North Ed
- Special Education
- What is the proposal?
- Why is this millage needed?
- What would it do?



# Overview

- Northwest Education Services (North Ed) is the intermediate school district (ISD) for Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau counties
- Supports local school districts and public school academies with:
  - Early Childhood
  - **Special Education services**
  - Career & Technical Education and Early College programming
  - Professional Development
  - Technology, Business, Transportation & Communication services

# Special Education

- Current 2-mill levy supports roughly **3,000 students** (about 14% of region's total student population) with SE services annually
- **400+ SE staff** serving region
  - 8 service area supervisors, 1 compliance monitor & 1 curriculum coordinator
  - ~ 200 evaluators and service providers
  - ~ 200 teachers, teacher assistants and support staff
- Early Childhood & Infant/Toddler Services
- 4 Center-based regional programs
  - Bridgeway
  - New Horizons
  - Transition Campus/Life Skills Center
  - Creekside School

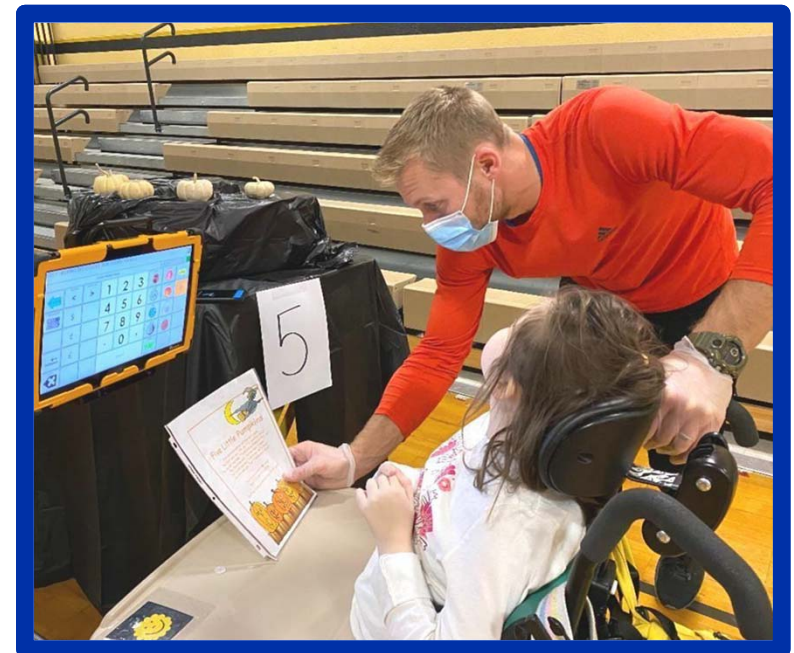
# What is the proposal?



- **Restoration Millage:**
  - 0.5 mill for 10 years (2023-32)
  - Would need approval from majority of all voters across the ISD
- Would allow North Ed to **maintain existing 2-mill levy**
  - Current levy generates \$27.5 million regionally to serve SE students
  - Millage is largest revenue source for Special Education fund
- Taxpayers would not see levied millage rate go above 2 mills

# Why is this millage needed?

- To Support Students!
  - Stable funding allows high quality SE services for 3,000 students each year who have greatest needs
  - **Legal obligation:** Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)



# Why is this millage needed?



- Headlee Amendment Rollbacks
  - As property values increase faster than inflation, Headlee rollbacks decrease amount of millage levy
  - If property values continue rising, causing total millage rate to drop below 2 mills = less funding for SE services
- Only amount needed to maintain 2 mills would be levied
  - Proposal would offset future potential reductions, allowing full millage levy to be **maintained at previously approved 2-mill level**

# Why is this millage needed?

- Authorized millage rate after Headlee Amendment rollbacks
  - 2018 = 2.1085
  - 2019 = 2.1003
  - 2020 = 2.0842
  - 2021 = 2.0640
  - 2022 = 2.0337



# What would the millage do?

- Support 3,000 Special Education students by funding:
  - SE services and programming in local districts and center-based classrooms
  - Special Education facilities
  - Necessary SE equipment purchases
  - SE staff professional development = More effective educators



# What would the millage do?

- Support **ALL students** and **communities**
  - Local districts must pay for unfunded Special Education services
  - Millage would minimize unfunded SE costs, freeing up local district general fund dollars to fund a district's other priorities:
    - Facilities used by community
    - Improved programming and opportunities for **ALL STUDENTS**
    - General operating expenses



## More Information:

- **Visit:** [tinyurl.com/NorthEdMillage](https://tinyurl.com/NorthEdMillage)
- **Call:** 231.922.6200



# Questions?